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REPORTS
COLL. BY OF MED: ED:;
THE SOCIETY
FOR
BETTERING THE CONDITION
AND
INCREASING THE COMFORTS
OF THE POOR.

VOL. III.

PART THE FIRST.

CONTAINING THE
REPORTS No. XIII. XIV. AND XV.

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1801.

DIRECTIONS FOR DRESSING PRESSED
PILCHARDS.

SOAK them in warm water for five or six hours, then broil them.—If, after they are broiled, they are cleared of bones, &c. and dressed up with mashed potatoes, in the proportion of three pilchards to a pound of potatoes, they will make a good and palatable dish.

RECEIPT TO MAKE POTATOE YEAST.

To a quart of potatoes, boiled and well mashed, add a tea-cup-full of good yeast, and a spoon-full of coarse brown sugar, and as much warm water as will bring the whole to the consistency of good yeast. This will ferment together in a few hours, and will be fit for use; and by the addition of more potatoes and sugar, when half the original quantity is expended, may be kept in a serviceable state without any more yeast for many weeks. It has been used without failure for several weeks successively in one family in Buckinghamshire. There must be a little more yeast allowed for the bread, but not much more, than of common yeast.

Subscriptions to the Society are received by Messrs. Ransom, Morland, and Co. Pall-Mall; or by Messrs. Hoares, Fleet-street; and by Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Smith, George-street, Mansion House.

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INTRODUCTORY LETTER

TO THE
THIRD VOLUME,

ADDRESSED TO THE
LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM.

MY DEAR LORD,

At the commencement of another volume of our Reports, I embrace the opportunity of offering my congratulations, upon the complete establishment of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor. Your Lordship has not, from the first, despaired, or doubted, of the practicability of uniting the exertions of the opulent and enlightened, for the general improvement, and permanent advantage of the great mass of our fellow subjects. Success has been the reward of our endeavours; and

the decided sentiment, and effectual co-operation, of yourself, and of friends with whom it is an honour to act, have given support and stability to the Society.

I do not know how far your Lordship will deem it necessary, that any excuses should be offered for a third intrusion of Prefatory Observations by one, who to the occupation of his thoughts, and to the indulgence of his feelings, on a favourite subject, has willingly devoted many pleasurable hours. But circumstances, which would require time to state, have persuaded me that it may be proper to offer some further observations, on the general motives and views of the Society; and to notice objections that have been urged to what I shall venture, notwithstanding the perverted use that has been made of the term, to call THE NEW PHILOSOPHY.

It will immediately occur, that I do not refer to that noxious theory, operating to break the bonds of society, and to cancel every motive to duty,—that baneful mockery of rights and reason, the tendency of which is to eradicate from the human breast *every religious*

impression of youth, every virtuous principle of mature life, and every consoling hope of declining age:—nor yet to those sublime and dignified researches, which, quitting the immediate duties and occupations of man, and those contemplations in which our fellow-creatures and ourselves are most interested, explore the hidden properties of matter, the distant wonders of creation, or the intricate mazes of the human mind;*—researches which, as Cicero justly observes, can never be com-

* These examples of scientific pursuit are of the highest and most elevated kind.—I trust, however, it cannot be imagined, that I would deprecate the inestimable utility of *philosophical* discoveries and investigations; or apply any observation that *I may presume* to offer, to the disparagement of *professional* application, and of improvement in the fine arts. It is to the *idle and unoccupied amateur*, that I address my observation.—It will occur to the reader that there are some persons in easy and independent situations, who attach *all* importance to a few literary etymologies,—to a stroke of the pencil, or a bend of the bow:—as if *literature, painting, or music*, or any of the other delightful and fascinating amusements of life, constituted its primary and essential occupations; or could, in any way, or upon any pretence, exempt their votaries from the indispensable duty, of filling an active, and *useful*, situation in society.

pletely obtained by man; and which, if even attainable in perfection, *could not materially contribute to his well-being.** I refer to that species of PHILOSOPHY, which, *recalled* from occult and abstruse investigations to THE CONCERNs OF COMMON LIFE, is induced to dwell in the habitation of the cottager, and to direct its inquiries to his nearest and dearest interests, and to the promotion of his virtue and happiness.

The impotence of man, and the incompetency of the most powerful and best directed exertions of human industry, *entirely* to remove *all* the aggregate of human misery, have too frequently operated, even on minds in themselves naturally kind and benevolent, and have deterred them from the strenuous application of their talents, for the benefit of

Objections from the progress of population.

* — *a rebus occultis, et ipsa natura involutis, in quibus omnes ante eum philosophi occupati fuerunt, avocavisse philosophiam, et ad vitam communem adduxisse; ut de virtutibus et vitiis, omninoque de bonis rebus et malis quereret; cœlestia autem, vel procul esse a nostra cognitione, vel, si maxime cognita essent, NIHIL TAMEN AD BENE VIVENDUM. Quæst. Académ. lib. i. sec. 4.*

their fellow creatures.—It has been correctly stated, that the progress of population* will periodically be checked by the want of food; and that, as the human species increases beyond the proportion of subsistence, misery and vice will step forward to reduce the numbers of mankind. The observation of an able writer, † on this subject, will afford but a melancholy consolation to the friends of humanity;—that “had it not been for the “devastations, which history has recorded, “of water and fire, of war, famine, and pesti-“lence, this earth would not now have had “room for its multiplied inhabitants.”

It has also been suggested, that, in the constituted order of things upon earth, *natural evil is necessary to the existence of all the most excellent virtues*:—that without distress, there can be

From the
effects of
necessity.

* See the Rev. Mr. Townsend's dissertation on the Poor Laws — In p. 37, et subseq. the reader will find an ingenious exemplification of the progress and effects of population. In every part of the work, he will discover great knowledge of the subject, and much useful observation.

† Sir W. Jones, on the origin of families and nations.

no charity; without danger no courage; without difficulty, no perseverance. The hardships of life, it is said, give acuteness to the human intellect, and awaken faculties that might have lain for ever dormant. If man had no hope of elevation or dread of depression in life,—if industry were not productive of comfort and enjoyment,—and idleness, of misery and regret,—the foundations of society would be undermined, and the whole fabric moulder in a shapeless ruin.

To the consequences of necessity,—of the established right and succession of property,—and of the apparently narrow principle of self-love, we are indebted for all the noblest exertions of human genius,—all the refined and cultivated emotions of the soul,—for every thing which distinguishes the civilized from the savage state. In its effects, it is this, to use words applied by our common friend to a different impulse of the mind, that “prompts to every dignified and generous enterprise: IT IS ERUDITION IN THE POR-TICO, SKILL IN THE LYCEUM, ELOQUENCE IN THE SENATE, VICTORY IN THE FIELD.”*

* Practical View.

It has also been stated, that the “ sorrows
“ and distresses of life form ano-
“ ther class of excitements, which
“ seem to be necessary, by a pe-
“ culiar train of impressions, to soften and
“ humanize the heart; to awaken social sym-
“ pathy, generate all the Christian virtues,
“ and afford scope for the extended exertions
“ of benevolence:”* that the heart, which has
not known sorrow, can be but little sensible
to the *pains and pleasures, the wants and wishes,*
of its fellow-beings; or glow with that holy
warmth of brotherly love,—those kind and
benevolent affections, which dignify the hu-
man character, beyond the possession of the
most exalted talents.

But,—before we can be persuaded that no
exertions will be effectual to *in-*
crease the moral character and es-
sential welfare of a people, the con-
verse of the proposition must be maintained.
It must be proved that no neglect, or inatten-

And of sor-
row and dis-
tress.

General an-
swer to the
objections.

* See an Essay on the principle of population, published in 1798. The reader will perceive several references to it, in this introductory letter.

tion, can *diminish* the virtue and happiness of a country. Alas ! my dear Lord ! the page of history supplies abundance of melancholy evidence, that, by the indolence and indifference of the higher classes in other countries, to this great, this important subject, the most delightful region, that has ever adorned the face of the earth, may become a sink of misery and vice ; and *one million of people* barely exist as wretched savages, or vicious slaves, in an extent of country, in which, with good management and civil order, *TEN MILLIONS of inhabitants* might have lived *happy, free, and virtuous.* —

The true application of CHARITY, like perfect knowledge in metaphysics, seems to have been left as a subject of indefinite research and inquiry ; in order that the faculties of man might be stimulated and exercised, with more earnest attention, to its perfection, and to his own improvement. If, indeed, this science were *easily* to be acquired, and the bearings, the limits, and the boundaries *precisely and correctly* ascertained, one of the

Of the true application of charity.

most potent incentives to benevolent researches would cease; the kind and amiable affections of the heart might lose their influence; and every sentiment, congenial with charity, might stagnate in torpid inactivity. In this, however, as in other objects of our inquiry, while *the distant undiscovered country of SPECULATION* rises in clouds before us, it is always in our power to know, as much, as can be *practically useful*. So much, in any event, we may clearly discover, that *whatever encourages and promotes habits of INDUSTRY, PRUDENCE, FORESIGHT, VIRTUE, AND CLEANLINESS among the poor, is beneficial to them and to the country;—whatever removes, or diminishes, the incitement to any of these qualities, is detrimental to the STATE, and pernicious to the INDIVIDUAL.** This is the POLAR

* I am apprehensive that the mode in which relief has been given, in many parishes, during the present scarcity, may have great effect in diminishing the industry and energy, and consequently prejudicing the welfare, of the poor. I mean the practice of making up, by parochial relief, the earnings of the cottager and his family, to a *certain sum*, proportioned to the *number of persons* in family. In this way, tho' the labourer may do

STAR of our benevolent affections; directing them to their true end; and preserving them, not only from that capricious selection of objects, which, unjust in principle, and injurious in effect, seeks rather to gratify personal whim and distempered humour, than to promote the well-being of its fellow-creatures; but also from that indiscriminate and undirected bounty,* which may “give all

task work, and may labour extra hours, tho his wife and children may be *always industriously employed*, yet his family is to have *no extra advantage* whatever from it; but is to be exactly on the same footing as that family, whose exertions and weekly earnings are the least. A very different practice of a parish in Gloucestershire, will, I hope, make the subject of a future Report.—The Vestry agreed to fix a determinate and moderate sum, as the amount of an ordinary week's labour; and then gave an additional allowance, according to the number in family; leaving to the cottager and his family the full benefit of all exertion and extra labour.—This parish has also hired fourteen acres of arable land, to let out in cottagers' gardens.

* This species of charity has been enforced and recommended by Mr. Law, Dr. Doddridge, and by some other pious and very excellent men: appearing to look rather to the *motive*, than to the *object*; and, by spontaneous and general relief, to render the poor helpless and hopeless.—The acts of OUR BLESSED SAVIOUR tended to

" its goods to feed the poor," and yet possess no one individual characteristic, or property, of genuine and useful charity.

Before I observe upon some circumstances, which I conceive to have been prejudicial to the poor of this island, I shall briefly notice a few of those benefits, which are peculiar to our own age and country.—There are some advantages now possessed by the general mass of the people, not known to our ancestors, in any distant period of the English History ;—advantages so enjoyed by few, if any, other countries on the globe.—The first, and not the least important, is derived from the improvements in AGRICULTURE ; which enable the cultivator to increase the produce of wheat corn, to above treble its former quantity ; to bring into cultivation, by a succession of crops, and by artificial

Our advan-
tages from
agriculture.

instruct and to *beal* mankind,—and to make them WHOLE AND USEFUL in society. We do not read of any extraordinary, or gratuitous, supply of food ; except in the wilderness, where there were no ordinary means by human industry.

grasses and manures, whole districts of land, which were formerly unproductive waste: and by the capital employed in husbandry, and by the provision of winter food for cattle, to form and establish a storehouse of corn and dry food for a time of scarcity; so as almost to equalize the price of corn in the different seasons of the year. The consequent abundance has operated to supply the cottager with *wheaten bread*, a rarity formerly unknown; and has occasioned a modern practice, frequently the object of obloquy and jealousy, and, possibly, in some instances, prejudicial to the public; that of storing up grain, in large quantities, in time of plenty, as a guard and security, against the period of scarcity. By this has been obviated an inconvenience, under which every individual in this land did formerly suffer; that of the annual waste and profusion of food immediately after the corn was gathered, and the periodical want of subsistence* for some months before harvest;

* During the present scarcity of *wheat-corn*, I have heard some persons express a wish for the return of

producing an extreme variation in the value of corn; from a price above all means of

those *good old times of plenty*, when there was *always* abundance of food in this country. I have in vain searched the History of England for this *golden age*; for, until the last century, and with the exception of a short period that annually succeeded the harvest, wheat was never so cheap and plentiful, in England, as to make part of the food of the cottager. It frequently happened that *the cost of a quartern loaf of wheaten bread would exceed the produce of a week's labour*.—Those who will refer to the relative prices of corn and labour, during the last 700 years (as given in Sir Fred. Eden's State of the Poor, and Bishop Fleetwood's Chronicon Preciosum) will have abundant reason to be satisfied, that not only *scarcity* was formerly a periodical and expected evil, but that *FAMINE* was not uncommon *in those good old times*. Without noticing the dearth in 1270, when the cost of a bushel of wheat was almost beyond credibility (*seventeen shillings a bushel, labour being then one penny a day*), and the scarcity in 1289; the price of wheat in the years 1316, 1317, and 1318, *when labour was a penny a day, was from four to eight shillings the bushel*. When, in 1587, the average price of labour was raised to three-pence a day, wheat was sold at *ten shillings a bushel*; and at the same price in 1596; and, in several instances, not much cheaper. Eighteen bushels of wheat then constituted a fair average crop for an acre.—The substance of this note was inserted in a former publication: at the suggestion of a friend, I repeat it here, in the hope that those who are

purchase, to a cheapness that rejected all care and attention. The year was then composed of alternate seasons of plenty and famine; and the joyful period of harvest-home was anticipated and purchased by months of suffering. The price of corn in July was generally double, and sometimes treble, of what it was immediately after harvest; when the bounty of Providence supplied that food, which the wastefulness of man had dissipated.

Another considerable advantage, which
From manu- the poor enjoy at present, arises
factures. from our MANUFACTURES; tho
this is not, like the blessings of agriculture,
without its alloy and inconvenience. The
occupation of the manufacturer, if not ne-
cessarily, is, I fear, generally prejudicial to
health and morals:—but—it increases the
demand for labour, which is always an
dissatisfied with the present times, will inform them-
selves as to *other periods* of the English history, and as
to the present situation of *other countries*; and then
judge whether, with any temporary pressure which we
may be subject to at present, there is any other age, or
country which is to be preferred to our own.

advantage to the poor man; that being the commodity, which he has to offer at the market. It affords to the industrious and frugal, great opportunity of rising in the world; and thereby gives energy and vigour to the country. It has diminished, if not annihilated, the extreme dependence of the poor on the bounty of the other classes of life; and thereby has greatly contributed to that degree of civil liberty, which is the peculiar blessing of this favoured country.

"When manufactures were introduced into "England" (says an able writer, whom I have before cited) "Liberty came in their "train."

Analogous to the benefits of manufactures, and in some degree subject to the same inconveniences, are those of COMMERCE; which has added a fourth advantage, of very great importance in the present period of this country:—I mean COLONIZATION; insensibly draining off the dregs of misery, which must otherwise be the portion of all, during an increased population; and removing gra-

From com-
merce and
colonization

dually, and with benefit to the community, that surplus of inhabitants, which would otherwise exceed the general means of subsistence.—The portion of wealth, that is so carried off by these colonists, has been returned abundantly, and, as some have thought, with too copious a stream, from the three other quarters of the globe, into the bosom of this opulent and prosperous country.

But with all these advantages, promoting individual wealth, increased population, and As to their national power, we have too effect on national happiness. much reason to doubt, whether the aggregate of our GENERAL WELFARE has been thereby so much augmented, as might have been hoped. It may not be easy always to convince men, that virtue and happiness are greater blessings than wealth and power, as referring to themselves *individually*. Yet there will not be the same difficulty, in applying the principle to a nation; especially with those who are aware that power and wealth are only comparative advantages, but that virtue and

happiness are *real* blessings : and that when by the increase of opulence, of numbers, and of power, in a country, many individuals take a lower and less advantageous situation in society, and *all* find vice and misery more prevalent in the country, the community is injured, not benefited, by the accession of dominion* and property.—*No mine of wealth, no excess of power, no abundance of population,* should ever be purchased at the expence of the morals, or health, of a people.

In truth, that increase of the human species is not to be desired, the abutments and boundaries of which are misery and vice. There is no inducement to a benevolent mind to covet the mere progress of POPULATION ; unless attended with well-

Of increase
of popula-
tion.

* In a pamphlet on the population of Great Britain and Ireland, Sir Frederick Eden has lately given us a striking and *affecting* proof, how little extensive conquests and imperial plunder can contribute to the aggregate of national happiness. Of 19,800 *citizens*, who died at Paris in the last year, there were 8,200, whose eyes were closed in a public hospital. Of what avail to a nation is extended empire, or accumulated wealth, if nearly half the inhabitants are to expire in a state of beggary !

being and virtue here, and with the hopes of happiness hereafter. It had been better for thousands of individuals to have perished in their infancy, than to have protracted an injurious and hateful existence of vice, infamy, and wretchedness. It is not the *number*, but the *welfare*, and the *moral* and *religious improvement* of our fellow subjects, that should be the object of our researches;—not the support, or increase, of a noxious abundance of beings, immersed in sin and sorrow,—useless to themselves, and pernicious to the community; but the formation and institution of virtuous and active members of society, adapted by early habits and education, to their various stations of life.

If this be admitted, it will follow that all Effects of MANUFACTURES, the tendency of manufac- which is to promote an excess of tures. population, and at the same time to prejudice the health and morals of a people, must be pernicious to a country, unless the evil can be corrected by *extraordinary* attention and exertion. The melancholy prospect of thousands of young children, bred up

to vice and disease, has always diminished the pleasure I might otherwise have derived from the view of our manufactures. In the best of them, I have seen but little gratifying, as to the actual condition of our species; in the worst, I have beheld every thing to disgust and shock those, who are habituated to consider man as the heir of immortality, and youth as the period in which he is to be fitted to contend for so glorious a prize.

But the evil does not proceed entirely
Effect of the poor laws on population. from the prevalence of manu-
factures. The POOR LAWS OF

England have held out a false and deceitful encouragement to population. They promise that unqualified support that unrestricted maintenance, to the cottager's family, which it is not *possible* for them to supply; thereby inducing the young labourer to marry, before he has made any provision for the married state;* and, in

* During the late pressure of the times, acting as a magistrate, I have frequently received applications for relief, for their wives and young children, from stout healthy lads; who, but for the poor laws, and for the

consequence, extinguishing all prospective prudence, and all consideration for the future.—To the poor rates, which have been for some years rapidly increasing, no determinate boundary can be put upon our present system. Twenty shillings in the pound may be levied throughout the kingdom, (and more than that is now raised in some manufacturing parishes), without the object being attained, of providing a comfortless and hopeless maintenance * for a forlorn and

encouragement they offer to the excess of population, would have been then saving the earnings of their youthful labour, with a view to make a provision for entering prudently, and in good time, into the state of wedlock.

* I do not mean to impute blame to the cottager. Many of the resources, which administered to his maintenance, have now failed. A good spinner could earn five-pence a day: the spinning mills have nearly put an end to that species of occupation. The new system of farms has either deprived the cottager of those slips of land, which contributed greatly to his support, or has placed upon them an excessive rent. The labourer was supplied by the farmer, with whom he worked, with most of the necessaries of life, at prime cost: he is now sent, on credit, to the baker's, and chandler's shop.

depressed body of poor. The national debt, with all its magnitude of terror, is of little moment, when compared with the increase of the poor rates. In that instance, what is received from one subject, is paid, in a greater part, to another; so that it amounts to little more than a rent-charge, from one class of individuals to another. But the poor's rate is the barometer, which marks, *in all the apparent sun-shine of prosperity*, the progress of internal weakness and debility; and as trade and manufactures are extended, as our commerce encircles the terraqueous globe, it increases with a fecundity most astonishing; it grows with our growth, and augments with our strength; its root, according to our present system, being laid in the *vital source* of our existence and prosperity.

There is another evil, which, at the present moment, imperiously commands attention: I mean the DIET of all houses, erected for the poor and the distressed. The great and irrecoverable expense

Of the diet
of work-
houses, and
other public
establis-
ments.

of provisions in workhouses,* and in all eleemosynary foundations, and the *oppressive* example of waste † and extravagance which they afford, are extremely injurious to the good habits and well-being of the poor of this country; and, but for that noble and independent spirit which peculiarly characterizes the English cottager, must have increased the inhabitants of those edifices ‡ to an insup-

* Some workhouses are rather seminaries of mendicity, than preservatives against it. It has come within my knowledge, that paupers have been, occasionally, sent out from a workhouse to a neighbouring parish to beg.—This is one way, I fear not a singular one, of supplying the convent.

† The perquisites of hospitals constitute an evil very deserving of attention; particularly those perquisites (and most of them are of this class) which are inimical to the general economy of the house. In one very respectable hospital, the cook (if I understood her rightly), has the dripping, and her husband the cinders, of the kitchen. How is it possible for the governors to introduce any system of economy in food, or fuel, into that house, while the claim to those perquisites exists?

‡ Those who have attended much to the execution of the poor laws, must have had frequent occasion to notice the *specious irony*, with which some overseers affect to invite all the cottagers with their families into a workhouse, which is already crowded and incumbered with

portable degree. Of workhouses, and also of charities, and of every public establishment supported by eleemosynary contribution, the diet should certainly not be better than what the cottager may earn by daily labour. All who are able should be obliged to work, and should be allowed an increase of advantage, in proportion to exertion. The house should be considered as a place where distress may have relief and occupation, and where any one willing to submit to regulation, may find employment, and receive a fair price for it.

There is a further inconvenience in work-houses,* as they are at present conducted, that they contribute, not merely to raise, by actual waste, the price of provisions;

Effect of
workhouses
in lessening
the energy
of the poor.

inhabitants.—Wasteful plenty and thoughtless idleness are very seducing objects; but they have not, as yet, been able *entirely* to corrupt the spirit of the English labourer.

* While I am stating the inconveniences of work-houses, it is but justice to say, that, in a degree, they are necessary evils. In every parish, there will be objects, who *must* depend on the care of the public; and the wisdom of the legislature hath not yet thought of any better provision, than the establishment of workhouses.

and to injure, by example, the prudential habits of the poor; but that they diminish, in that numerous class of our fellow subjects, the spirit of providing for themselves and their families; and that peculiar feeling, which forms so estimable a part of the character of an Englishman. In their consequences they tend to prevent foresight,* and to produce an indifference about the future. They remove the inducement to saving, when the opportunity offers; and, by lessening the motive and inclination to provide for

If they are well administered (like that of my excellent and much valued friend, Mr. Gilpin, at whose suggestion I add this note), they are calculated to be the means of great comfort, and are, in every respect, deserving of commendation.

* What exertion of activity, or what providence of futurity, can be expected from those, who neither have, nor expect ever to possess, any property; who are removed from all domestic connections and endearments; and who see nothing before them, but a state of confinement for life, deprived of liberty and hope.—Industry and prudence are virtues which never prevail, but under the influence of hope;—but to the greater part of the inhabitants of a poor house

—HOPE never comes,
That comes to all.—

sickness, old age, and increase of family, they destroy one of the most potent stimulants to sobriety, prudence, and industry, and in consequence materially affect the well-being of the poor.

They also have a tendency *to dissolve those sacred bonds*, which unite in affection and mutual dependence all the members of the same family; and *to destroy that natural affection* between parent and child, which is an incentive to industry and good conduct, and one of the most valuable possessions of the human race. To the honour of the poor and ignorant, it subsists among them in as much force, and endues them with as much energy and perseverance to suffer and to act, as ever has existed in any other class of life; so that they will frequently endure any hardships, and submit to any difficulties, rather than abandon the charge which Providence has intrusted to them.

And in
weakening
the bonds of
family con-
nections.

SOUPS AND SOUP HOUSES, public and private charities for food, and every other establishment for generally Caution as to
soop houses.

supplying the poor with those necessaries, which they ought to be *enabled* to acquire and preserve by industry and prudence, are palliatives, sometimes rendered necessary by the pressure of the times,* or by the peculiar state of society. They may in particular cases be of infinite use, in diminishing a general calamity, both by economy, and by a more equal distribution of the means of life; and in all instances, they may be beneficial, in uniting

* There are seasons, which, in spite of any degree of forecast and prudence, will press upon every member of society. The cottager who keeps a cow, has, at present, the advantage of selling his butter, his veal, and his other articles, at the considerable profit of 30 per cent. above the ordinary market: but this does not compensate to him for the cost of bread-corn being more than a hundred per cent. above its usual price; nor will it, without that personal aid, which it would be *prudence* and *economy* to afford, or (if that is *wastefully withheld*) without *parochial relief in some instances*, enable him, if he has a large family, to procure a supply of the necessities of life, and to persevere in his system of domestic economy. I have therefore no difficulty in admitting that, in a season like the present, *even the cottagers, who keep cows*, may require parochial assistance. This is the peculiar species of *exception*, which gives decisive evidence, in favour of the *general rule*.

the various ranks of society; in producing useful co-operation, and in instructing the rich and the poor in their respective duties and interests. But without great caution in the *conduct*, in the *extension*, and in the *continuance* of them, however they may relieve for the present crisis, their tendency will be ultimately to injure the general condition of the poor. As a remedy for an immediate evil, as the means of improving the habits of the cottager, and of increasing the mutual kindness and connection between him and the other ranks of life, they may be of infinite service. But if ever they become permanent and general, if ever the mass of the common people of this island look up to the rich for the *daily alms* of food, the energy of the country will be destroyed; and, as it was in corrupted Rome, BREAD AND PUBLIC SPEC-TACLES,* to be enjoyed in listless and worthless idleness, will be the clamorous and importunate demand of the great mass of the people.

* ——duas tantum res anxius optat.

PANEM ET CIRCENSES —

The only rational hope of diminishing our
Of better- present parochial burthens,* and
ing the con- of affording a remedy to those
dition of the evils which are incident to popu-
poor. lous and opulent states, must be
founded on the success of measures FOR BET-

* There is hardly any circumstance, which has contributed to increase parish rates, more than the unjust and *imprudent* practice of some parishes, in assessing day labourers, who have families, but no property, and are living merely on the daily produce of their labour; and yet possessing sufficient industry and spirit, to struggle to maintain themselves and their families, without parochial relief.—One would suppose that it was essential in point of law, that *every one*, rich or poor, should either *receive* from, or *contribute* to, the rate for the relief of the poor. In one place I have endeavoured to check this evil; but I have not laboured so successfully, as to prevent, even within my own limited district, several cottagers being compelled by the enforced demand of parish rates, to become a *permanent burthen* to their respective parishes—Some observations upon the *legality* and *expediency* of assessing to parish rates, those cottagers, who live by *daily labour*, may be found in the charge to overseers; inserted in the appendix to our second volume—This is one of the very few cases, in which legislative interference is at present wanted, as to the poor-laws.—Parliament *might* do much in this respect, to encourage industry and prudence in the cottager and his family.

TERING THE CONDITION OF THE POOR. It must be by the education of youth, by the moral and religious habits of mature age, by the improvement of the cottager's means of life, by the increase of his resources, and of his habits of industry * and foresight,—by these means, and by these only, that the condition of the poor can ever be essentially and permanently improved, the prosperity of the country augmented, and the parochial burthens eventually diminished. Without these means, work-houses, and alms-houses, public charities and hospitals, may be erected with increasing and unwearied diligence throughout the land, and yet never keep pace with the progress of indigence and misery.

* There has been much inconvenience attending the *feudal barbarism* of our law, which vests all the wife's property, and *earnings*, in the husband. In Rome it was otherwise; and, among the higher classes of life, the rights of the female sex are provided for by the *machinery* of settlements.—Sir Frederick Eden has justly observed, that, among the lower classes of life, there is more economy, more self-denial, and more family regard, among the women, than is to be found in the other sex; and that there are very few instances, in

The impressions which have been produced upon the cottager's mind, by affording him the means of acquiring PROPERTY, and of possessing objects of care and industry, are great, unqualified, and unvaried. Experience has not as yet produced a single inconvenience, or a solitary variation of effect. In every instance, the cottager has been more industrious, the wife more active and managing, the children better educated, and more fitted for their situation in life,—the parish rates have been reduced to the mere form of a parochial assessment; while, from the possessions of the cottager, the neighbourhood has received at a moderate price, several necessary articles of life, which, upon the enlarged and speculating system of modern husbandry, the farmer finds it not worth while to pay any attention to.

which the ruin of a cottager's family has been occasioned by the wife. A law which should give to the women the complete disposal of the earnings of their own labour, would add a very considerable increase to the industry of the kingdom. See Sir Fred. Eden's state of the poor. Vol. I. p. 626—630.

I have already offered many observations on the EDUCATION * of the poor. I well know, my dear Lord, how strongly your mind is impressed with the important truth,—that of all our exertions for the benefit of our fellow creatures, this is the most useful and efficacious: inasmuch as it affords a remedy for the evils of opulent and populous society; throwing into the constitution, daily and insensibly, a supply of vital strength and aliment; and potently correcting those idle and *morbid humours*, which have a tendency to decay

Of the education of the poor.

* It was an observation of the late Mr. Howard, that, in Switzerland and Scotland, he found the fewest prisoners. This he imputed to the regular education of the children of both countries; which operated, not only to preserve them from criminal habits, but to enable them to thrive in life. As a further proof of the benefits of early education, Mrs. Hannah Moore mentioned to me, that, during the number of years, that the late Mr. Henry Fielding presided in Bow-street, only six Scotchmen (as he stated) were ever brought before him. Mr. Fielding used to say, that of the persons committed, the greater part were of a sister-island; where the natural dispositions of the people are quite as good, but the system of education is neither so strict, nor so generally adopted, as in Scotland.

and dissolution. It invigorates the body politic, and forms and prepares from every class of society, useful and active members, to fill the most important duties and stations of life; thereby recalling and awaking the energy and attention of the higher ranks, and stimulating them to activity and improvement.

Of a similar nature are those charities, of houses of recovery, medical hospitals, &c. in providing for their own support. Such is the instruction of the blind, the supplying of the cottager's family with useful and healthful employment, and the encouragement of their virtue and industry by public rewards and testimonials, or by personal attention: such are friendly societies; * and such is every exer-

* Of FRIENDLY SOCIETIES we may use Lord Coke's quaint expression as to *copyholds*, that, "tho' very meanly descended, they come of an ancient house."—At Athens, and in some other cities of Greece, there existed certain fraternities, which paid into a general fund, a monthly contribution towards the support of such of their members, as might be unfortunate. The money was to be advanced to any of their distressed members, upon this condition, that if they should again be suc-

tion of benevolence, which instructs and enables the poor (and I may add the rich too, for the charity is nearly equal) to be useful and happy. In the same class may be

cessful in the world, they were to repay into the common stock, the money that had been so advanced. What the learned Casaubon has collected on this subject, is very curious.—I give it from his own words, in a note on a passage in Theophrastus:—“*Referri debet ad pulcherrimum et vere pium Græcorum morem pauperes amicos sublevandi. Fuit enim apud illos moribus receptum, ut cum adversam fortunam passus esset aliquis, amicorum atque sodalium facultatibus sublevaretur; accipiebat enim ab iis pecuniæ aliquam summam, ea lege, ut si Deus aliquando meliora daret, quantum illi erogatum esset, tantundem ipse restitueret.*”—After citing several authorities, Casaubon proceeds to describe *the form of these friendly societies*:—Apud Athenies, et in aliis Græcorum civitatibus, **INSTITUTÆ SODALITATES**, quæ communem arcam haberent; in quam *quot mensibus certum quid a singulis penderetur; ut esset unde juvari possent, qui ex illa sodalitate fortunam adversam aliquo modo essent experti.*”—It is curious to observe, that the objection of that age, should be the objection to the general and *unregulated prevalence* of friendly societies, at present:—“*ne non ad sustinendam tenuiorum inopiam, sed AD TURBAS ET ILLICITOS CŒTUS utantur.*” See Casaubon’s notes on the 15th chapter of Theophrastus.

placed those establishments, which prevent the progress of vice, and of* infection, or restore the poor to health and strength. These are houses of recovery,† and dispensaries,

* A very infectious fever has been prevalent this spring, in Kendal. The Committee for the Poor there, in order to check the progress of the contagion, came to a Resolution to have all the dwellings of the poor there white-washed, not only in the ceilings and walls, but the wood-work : 801 houses have been accordingly *white-washed with hot lime*, and have thus been purified from infection, and rendered clean and neat.—The TOTAL EXPENSE of this was FORTY-SEVEN POUNDS ; or about fourteen-pence for each house. June 12, 1801.

† With regard to the expediency of establishing houses of recovery in London, it is, perhaps, not generally known, that *typhus*, or infectious fever, has been very prevalent in London during the preceding year ; particularly in the close courts about Temple Bar, Clare Market, and St. Giles's.—I have my information from Dr. Willan, that of those in October and November last, as great a proportion as one in four have died ; and that no less than six surgeons fell victims, in London, to this disorder, between October 1799 and June 1800.—Dr. Murray has published a plan for houses of recovery in London : it is sold at Hatchard's. AN INSTITUTION for this purpose has been since formed ; and a Committee appointed. They have advertised for *detached buildings for Houses of Recovery*; and have named a Sub-committee to white-wash and

and medical hospitals; and those charities which call home the forlorn and deserted wanderer, and replace her in the paths of industry and virtue.

Our Creator has made *moral and natural evil* the instruments of his operations in this world; and the means of awakening the energy, and invigorating ^{Our duty as to the poor,} the virtues, of those rational creatures, which he has induced "with sufficient wisdom and strength to be virtuous, and, as far as their nature admitted, happy; but intrusted with freedom of will to be vicious, and consequently degraded."* It is not merely by that natural religion which is written in the feelings of the human heart, but BY HIS REVEALED WILL SOLEMNLY DELIVERED, that he hath commanded us to assist and relieve our fellow creatures to the extent of our power; and hath made our own virtue and happiness

purify those houses, in which any degree of infection now subsists. June 29, 1801.

* Sir William Jones.

ness* here, and our hopes of mercy hereafter, dependent on our obedience to that Divine command.

Vice, indigence, and misery, are the noxious weeds, the thorns and thistles, which deform the region wherein we are placed. This world is the scene for the probationary exertions of man. IT IS THE GARDEN WHICH GOD HATH GIVEN US, TO DRESS IT, AND TO KEEP IT; † impressing us with a desire of perfection, and impelling us to improve-

Our interest and duty united.

* The CREATOR seems to have put his mark upon indolence and inactivity, and to have declared to the idle and sensual this truth, written in the daily experience of man ;—“ Ye shall not enjoy the continuance of your existence : but TIME, the blessing and the treasure of others, shall be a burthen and a curse to you.”

† It appears to be the intention of providence that the preservation of the *order* of the *moral world*, as of the *beauty* and *fertility* of the *natural world*, should require, and call forth, the exertions of man. We might as well endeavour to discover a system of agriculture, that will execute itself without the toil of the labourer, as to invent a system of poor laws which can completely answer its end without the daily care of the rich.

ment. In proportion as we act in our duty with energy and effect, we attain a more elevated degree of existence and happiness; and we approach nearer to that perfection, which is the only real and rational good, to which our weak and humble nature can aspire. No occupation can be offered to the mind of man, so congenial, so interesting* or afford-

* The idea of making taste, and fanciful improvements, subservient to plans of benevolence, has been very improperly ridiculed by an amiable writer *who trifled elegantly and pleasingly*, during a very extended life;—a life which, with his talents, his advantages, *and his natural kindness of disposition*, might have been rendered eminently useful to his fellow-creatures.—The passage which I allude to, is in a note in Mr. Walpole's Essay on Modern Gardening;—in which he attempts to raise a smile at some author “extending his views “beyond mere luxury and amusement; and endeavouring to inspire his readers, even in the gratification of their expensive pleasures, with benevolent projects;—“so as to make every step of their walks, an act of generosity, and a lesson of morality.”—“Such, “he “proceeds,” “instead of a heathen temple, a Chinese pagoda, a gothic tower, or fictitious bridge,—at the first resting place to erect a school: a little further, “to found an academy; at a third distance, a manufacture; and at the termination of the park, to endow “an hospital.”—Let those who have seen LORD WIN-

ing such real and unmixed gratification to the human heart, as systematic and intelligent benevolence; for, independent of this advantage that by labouring to relieve and benefit others we always meliorate ourselves, the experience of human life will teach us (and I boldly call on the *sensualist* to try the experiment) that he who contributes to the temporal comfort of the greatest number of his fellow-creatures here, and to their eternal happiness hereafter, lives with the most satisfaction, and dies with the greatest hope.

Your Lordship has well observed* on the forlorn situation of the *poor man*, who,
Consequences of neglecting this duty. at the decline of life, remains without the comfort of religious information; who, after a

CHILSEA'S AND MR. CONYER'S COTTAGES, the benevolent ornaments of CASTLE EDEN, and the beautiful and romantically situated schools of Mr. GILPIN AT BOLDRE,—appreciate the true value of the *amusements of Strawberry Hill*; the time and abilities of whose benevolent owner deserved better, and more useful occupation.

* The Bishop of Durham's Charge to his Clergy in 1797.

period of toil, and care, and labour, is not instructed to look forward to a future state, with faith, and hope.—Compared with this, however, what is the condition of that RICH AND GREAT MAN, who, at the close of this brief and chequered life, when the wearied and exhausted eye sees no object before it but the grave, cannot console himself with the memory of any one duty fulfilled, either to GOD or man: who, with abundant wealth, extensive influence, and splendid and cultivated abilities, has applied all his *intrusted talents* to no one good or useful purpose; but has directed their *concentrated power* to the mean, solitary, and unworthy object of self-indulgence, and sensual gratification;—who, favoured with the means of enjoying and diffusing happiness, has converted the gifts of Heaven to the worst and basest purposes; and has been the active and diabolical instrument in promoting the prevalence of vice and misery among his fellow-creatures. Wretched indeed, and devoid of all consolation, is such a state of old age and debility; wretched—beyond any thing in this world; and

only exceeded by that hopeless misery, to which his troubled conscience must look forwards, in the next state of existence.

Happily for this country, the example of such a *rich and great man*, is rare and uncommon. Among the higher Conclusion. classes of life, there are many, who make hereditary benefits the sanction for successive duties; and, for the advantage of the human race, transmit the debt of kindness, and the obligation of benevolence, from one generation to another.—Where, indeed, the object of association between man and man is not merely mutual defence,—not a barter of convenience, nor a compact of amusement,—but,—to instruct the ignorant, to relieve the wretched, and to protect the weak and defenceless *who can never make a return*,—and (to adopt the words of an eloquent writer*) “ to survey the mansions of sorrow “ and pain, to take the gage and dimensions “ of misery, depression, and contempt; to “ remember the forgotten, to attend to the “ neglected, and to visit the forsaken,”—the

* Mr Burke.

sentiment becomes virtue, and the reward is of the highest and most elevated kind. To those, however, who have not experienced the satisfaction of these occupations, it will not be easy to conceive the energy and activity of mind, which is acquired by the promotion of the happiness of our fellow-creatures; or to imagine the eagerness, with which a person engaged in these pursuits will contemplate, and the perseverance with which he will follow, such an object:—an object, in which the prize of attainment is not the petty and pitiful acquisition of a trifling possession, but the permanent interest of millions;—advantages extending, with the Divine blessing, to uncounted numbers and to future ages.

With unfeigned esteem and respect, I remain,

My dear Lord,
your Lordship's obliged
and affectionate Servant,

Jan. 27 1801.

THOS. BERNARD.

*The Hon. and Right Reverend
the Lord Bishop of Durham.*

No. LXX.

Extract from an account of the relief granted the poor at Mongewell, and in its neighbourhood, on account of the present high price of bread. By the Reverend DAVID DURELL.

AMONG the resolutions entered into by the magistrates acting for the hundreds of Binfield and Langtree, in the county of Oxford, there was one, recommending to the several parishes within their jurisdiction, in all cases that would admit of such mode of relief, *to give (instead of money) parochial relief in substitutes for bread*, particularly rice. At the vestry meeting of the parish of Mongewell, holden in consequence of this resolution, it was agreed to adopt the mode recommended by the magistrates; and as assistance had been given to such parishioners as required it, by paying the difference between the actual price of bread and fourteen-pence a gallon loaf, they should, in future, for each gallon loaf, of which such difference had hitherto been paid, receive two pounds of rice, half a pound of cheese, and five-pence in shop goods, the gallon loaf being at that time two shillings and seven-pence-halfpenny; so that by the usual method, they would have received for each loaf, one shilling and five-pence. The rice was to be valued to them at four-pence a pound, and the cheese at nine-pence: the shop goods to be laid in at the best rate, and reckoned to them at prime cost. The

alteration was to begin the following week. It should be observed, that this parish is of considerable extent, more than six miles in length; much of it in woods, and the communication between the extreme parts not so frequent as could be wished; so that the poor, at that part which is not inhabited by the wealthier parishioners, cannot receive the same attention as those do, who live nearer to them.

On the day appointed for the delivery of the several articles to the poor, according to the change, there was a manifest dissatisfaction among them, but chiefly observable among those who live in the woody part. They said, they understood the parish was going to be *unkind* to them, and to take away that allowance for bread, which they had found absolutely necessary for their support: that, even with it and their utmost labour, they were not able to procure more than bread, and sometimes a small piece of cheese: and tho' they expressed themselves in the most decent manner, yet it was with strong marks of deep concern and uneasiness.—They were told, that the parish did not propose to injure them; that the alteration had been advised by the magistrates; and, as the treatment they had hitherto received had not been unkind, they might rely on a continuance of the same attention on the part of the parish. Tho' they listened to this, they could not comprehend how any alteration could be made, except to their disadvantage.

The first delivery of the new relief, was to a man living in the woods, who has a wife and six children, whose earnings together amount to thirteen shillings and sixpence a week. The parish, conformably to the rule adopted, were to allow him eleven shillings and sixpence. He had first given to him fifteen pounds of rice and four pounds of cheese: he was then told that he might have of such shop goods as were before him, to the amount of three shillings and sixpence.* After enquiring the price of each article, he chose two pounds of bacon; an ounce of tea, one pound of sugar, half a pound of coarser sugar for his rice, four-pence in candles, and two-pence in soap.

It was a gratifying circumstance, to observe the gradual transition in the man's mind, as the different articles were delivered to him. Instead of that prejudice against the measure, which he felt when he entered the room, he by degrees arrived at the most complete satisfaction: he found himself in possession of a greater quantity of good eatables than he had before been master of; he was then dismissed, being reminded, that his earnings and those of his family, remained at his free disposal;

* The rule adopted by the magistrates, at their petty sessions at Henley, on the 23d of October last, was as follows: "The weekly earnings of the family should be, or be made up by the parish, the value of the gallon loaf to all above five years of age; half a gallon for those under five years. If there are three or more under that age, half a gallon should be added. Then add ten-pence to each in family. This rule supposes that the parish pays the rent, and allows fuel."

hat this change, which he had so much dreaded, would be continued as long as the times required it; and that he would receive a similar supply every week. The same alteration in opinion, and the same satisfaction, were perceptible in all those, who at the first thought unfavourably of the measure. The next time they attended, there was no symptom of their distrusting the parish; no appearance of dissatisfaction, but a cheerful desire of such shop foods, as they most wanted for their week's provision.

OBSERVATIONS.

The supply of rice in the above instance, will appear to be equal in consumption, to the usual expenditure of bread in the family; when it is considered that, before, they almost entirely lived on bread; and that, by the change, they have four pounds of cheese, and two pounds of bacon, to eat with their fifteen pounds of rice. It is obvious that at the present moment, such a saving of bread is of great value; and from the comparison of the former state of this family, with the present, it is no less obvious that their comforts are much increased.

The usual habit of the poor, is to send to the shop for their bread, from day to day, as they consume it. At the end of the week, their earnings and what they are to receive for parish relief, are due to the shopkeeper, with whom they almost universally contract debts; so that they are bound

to deal with him, at whatever rate the goods are charged: and as those goods are laid in by small quantities, and on credit, they must be sold to the poor under every disadvantage. When the debt amounts to a few shillings only, it is necessary that the shopkeeper reserve a portion of the earnings and parochial assistance, towards the liquidation of it; and it is much, if the poor have a sufficiency of bread from them. Hence follow numberless inconveniences. The mind of the man is oppressed; for his wages are pledged. His family can afford him no satisfaction; for he regards them as the cause of his hard fare, as on their account the debt was contracted. Thus his attachment to his home is broken, and his domestic habits destroyed. But the reverse must be the consequence of the mode above stated: he finds himself possessed of a property, which he is to economize for the week; and, at the close of that week, he receives his earnings, and has the satisfaction of finding that they are at his free disposal. Thus, with his mind at ease, a gradual habit of management is adopted. For it is always to be observed, that the bettering of the condition of the poor in any one instance, induces them to an activity, in assisting themselves in all others. It may therefore be concluded, that, however salutary for the present times, this mode of providing for them may be, yet the effect must be of permanent benefit; and that, when it may please God to remove the necessity which occasioned it, we should

not lose sight of the object of giving parochial relief, in such a manner, as to improve the manners and the habits of life, in proportion as they better the condition of those that receive it.

22d Nov. 1800.

No. LXXI.

*Extract from a further account of the Cork society
for bettering the condition of the poor. By THO-
MAS BERNARD, Esq.*

I HAVE a real pleasure in stating, that, in the prosecution of their general object, *of bettering the condition of the poor*, the Cork society has proceeded to form a *friendly society*, which promises to be a model for such establishments in future ;—in that it offers a much greater benefit and security to the members, at the same time that it guards them, and the community, from those abuses and inconveniences,* to which friendly societies are sometimes subject. It was not, however, to be expected, that even the advantages of increase of emolument by the subscriptions of honorary members, and of permanent security of funds by the situation and responsibility of the trustees to whom the funds are entrusted, should have immediately and instantaneously produced their effects on the poor. It may be sufficient, at so early a period, to satisfy the benevolent views of the founders, that two hundred and nine members have already

* To those who have read the account of the Cork friendly society, and have considered the subject, it may be unnecessary to observe upon the expediency of gentlemen contributing as honorary members to the friendly societies in their neighbourhood ; so as to secure their stability, and increase their funds.

entered their names on the books ; and that as much success offers itself to the persevering industry of the committee, as could well have been expected.

Another object of the Cork society has been the advertising of *rewards for good conduct* :—this, as they justly observe, is “ the most economical and “ effectual way of promoting a general spirit of “ improvement among the poor.” They have adopted it with effect ; and have offered different premiums, from one to three guineas, to those servants, who have lived in one service the longest period, and with the best character, in respect of sobriety, honesty, and good behaviour. To cottagers they have also held out rewards for cleanliness and good management ; a species of encouragement, which would at all times be very useful in this, or in any country. The white-washing of the cottage, the removal of the dunghill at the door, and the clearing away offensive nuisances, both within and without the house (which are essential requisites for the candidates), in addition to effective and visible cleanliness and good management, are improvements of no ordinary import or consequence. “ The cottage (to use the animated “ and appropriate words of the Dublin society) “ CROWNED WITH A PUBLIC REWARD, stands “ up a constant and eminent example, to excite “ the imitation of the surrounding inhabitants ; “ and to produce in them increasing habits of

" cleanliness, and a continual growth of improved
" manners."

A third object of the society has been the establishment of a *lying-in-hospital*; an institution, which was deemed to have the greater claim on the public, because it was not practicable to ingraft a provision of that kind on the friendly society. The ladies of Cork have taken this charity under their particular protection, and make it the object of a daily visit. Eight beds have been established in the house; and, within six months from March last, forty patients have been received into, and discharged from the hospital.

The distress of the poor, and the high price of provisions, have likewise attracted the attention of the committee; and, while they have provided support for those who were entirely destitute, they have also been anxiously careful to assist others, who might, without timely aid, be reduced to poverty. They have established *two soup shops*, for the sale of soup; and have, for some time, afforded a daily supply to 1500 persons, most of whom had little other, if any, means of support.

The society has the additional merit of having, by their publications, contributed to the forming, of a *charitable repository*, for the reception and sale of works of ingenuity and industry: the produce being to be applied in procuring strong and comfortable clothing, to be sold to the poor, at a reduced price. This repository has been established,

and is regularly attended, by some young ladies of the city of Cork. It is open four days in a week; and provides, not merely for the clothing of the poor on cheap terms, but for the encouragement of diligence among all descriptions of persons reduced to distress, by affording them a ready sale for the articles of their industry.—The general plan of it is similar to that of the Bath Repository; an account whereof has been given by a lady, in the eleventh Report.

OBSERVATIONS.

Nothing can be so interesting to our feelings, as the progress and success of well-directed benevolence; and of those efforts of charity, which essentially contribute to the well-being of our fellow creatures. Among such charities, it is not easy to point out an example better directed in its views, or conducted with a more powerful hand as to its effects, than the Cork society for bettering the condition of the poor.

I have the greatest pleasure in congratulating the gentlemen of that city, on the event and effect of their labours; and, on what I value beyond the event, their undaunted perseverance in the pursuit of objects for the benefit of the poor, even in those instances in which they have not been stimulated by immediate success, but have been supported merely by the earnest and unchecked desire of the welfare of their fellow creatures. The rewards

for the cleanliness of cottagers at Cork, have produced as yet only thirteen claimants; but the seed will not be sown in vain. It will ultimately produce the most beneficial effects on the habits of the Irish cottager; and by exciting that domestic cleanliness, which is more connected *with purity of mind and integrity of life*, than could be at first supposed, it will do eventual credit to the persevering efforts of the Cork society.

Tho calculated to give advantages, far beyond those of other friendly societies, the form of that at Cork is not so popular, or inviting, as to promote its immediate success. The poor, however, begin to feel and understand the advantages of it; and notwithstanding the imperious pressure of the times, which has compelled forty-two persons to withdraw their subscriptions, the society, at present, consists of one hundred and sixty-seven old members, with some addition of new subscribers.— We may therefore, I trust, anticipate that the city of Cork will have had the honour of producing a prosperous, and at the same time the most unexceptionable, model of a friendly society.

Institutions like that which is the subject of this paper, are of inestimable use, in carrying into execution any effectual measures for bettering the condition of the poor. Knowledge is thus circulated, the benefit of useful plans diffused, and their practicability ascertained, in the most remote parts of the united kingdom: and, what is very important, the execution of those plans, where local circum-

stances render them eligible, is not entrusted to solitary individuals ; but to bodies * of men, acting upon the same principles, and influenced by the same views.

In this manner a regular communication may be opened between societies in different parts of the empire ; an union may be formed, and a reciprocity of benefit and gratitude established, between the rich and the poor ; and the bonds of society may thus be strengthened, while misery, infection, and vice, are checked in their commencement.—It is, indeed, painful to reflect, how many poor creatures suffer unpitied, and unknown ; and how many others still more unfortunate, proceed from venial errors to atrocious crimes, without a warning voice to awaken reflection, or a friendly hand to restore them to the paths of virtue and happiness.

There are, in the British islands, abundant funds of pity and benevolence for the wretched. Nothing is wanted but to solicit their aid, to direct their application, and to concentrate their powers. This can only be effectually done by societies of disinterested and benevolent men ; calling forth, not only the contributions and attentions of the rich, and the activity and exertions of the middle ranks of life, but the good will, the wishes, and the energy of all, to co-operate in the execution of general and systematic plans, for promoting

* For the greater part of these observations, I am indebted to the Rev. Mr. Venn of Clapham.

the welfare of the poor. Thus, and thus only, may we hope, that all the different classes of life will be connected by the ties of benevolence ; and become the members of one happy and united family.

12th Jan. 1801.

No. LXXII.

Extract from an account of a village shop at Greenford, in Middlesex. By the Rev. Dr. GLASSE.

IN January, 1800, I resolved to open a village shop at Greenford, as nearly as possible on the plan of that at Mongewell: for this purpose I fitted up a room near my house, and appointed an intelligent young woman, one of my servants, to the office of shopkeeper; the time of sale being limited to the hour between twelve and one o'clock; which I knew would not be inconvenient to those, for whom the shop was intended, as they almost all live near to my house. I proposed to supply them with bacon, cheese, butter, rice, soap, sugar, and tea. We had no difficulty in conducting the sale of any of these articles, except the last, which, being a subject of excise, could not be dealt in without a license specially taken out for that purpose. This I thought at first, might be dispensed with; but the exciseman, is obliged, by his oath, to require it. Accordingly a license was obtained, at the expense of only a few shillings; and the young woman's name, as a dealer in tea, &c. was written on the door of her shop.

The principal objection to a village shop, was, in this instance, removed by an established shopkeeper in the village, having just left off business; there being only one remaining, the keeper of

which had other sufficient means of support. I was therefore doing no material injury to any one, in the service which I was endeavouring to render to many.

I determined to lay in every article for sale of the best kind, and to sell it at the prime cost ; and the poor, in consequence of an arrangement, which had their comfort and advantage for its sole object, were immediately supplied for ready money only with the necessaries of life ; at a price, which, on comparison with what they had been accustomed to pay, appeared to them to be extremely moderate and reasonable. It is too true, however, that, at the best, every article which they now purchase, must come to them exceedingly dear.

Whoever deals at the shop, is supplied with a card or ticket, inscribed with his or her name ; which is to be given to the parish clerk, in church, by some one grown up person of the family, after morning or evening service. This ticket the clerk is to bring to the shop on Monday ; and if by the absence of any ticket it appears that the owner was absent from church, on the preceding day, such owner, unless a satisfactory reason can be given, is deprived of the advantages of the shop, for the ensuing week.

The receipts, in six months, are rather better than £150. ; and the savings, to the poor, beside the prevention of frequent journeys to Brentford (four miles), and that chiefly on Sunday morning,

are different on different articles ; on none less than 15 per cent. ; on some, 20 per cent. and on others, 25 per cent.

I should have mentioned, that altho' the hour of applying to the shop is limited, on other days, to between twelve and one, yet on Saturdays it is open from six till nine in the evening. The labourers have prevailed on their employers, to lay aside the practice of paying wages on Sunday; and urge, as an argument, the necessity of their carrying money in their hands, when they go to this shop, to purchase the necessary supplies for their families, on Saturday evening. I hope I shall be able to continue this mode of assistance to the poor, and to extend it with effect to other articles ; particularly to those of coals and potatoes ; the latter of which we are now selling to the poor, at one halfpenny a pound ; but they are small, tho' of the best sort. Our price for coals never exceeds one shilling a bushel ; which, at the present cost of the article, will require a subscription to support it : as, if the demand were great, the deficiency would be too considerable to be conveniently supported by an individual.

OBSERVATIONS.

It is but too obvious, how much the poor are imposed upon by the petty shopkeepers, in the necessaries which they are enabled to purchase. The *quality* of the goods is not the best : the *price*

is extravagantly high ; and the *quantity* is reduced by deceitful weights, and a scanty measure. This is so often the case, as to call for a particular attention to two recent acts of parliament for the inspection of weights and balances : and I cannot help considering those officers, who undertake this inquiry, when they faithfully discharge their duty, as public benefactors.

One great advantage, which I hope my poor neighbours will derive from my shop, will be an established habit of *paying ready money* ; for we have no book debts. In too many cases, the ready cash used to go *elsewhere*, doing no good, but much harm ; while the poor shopkeeper was the principal creditor, and thought himself justified in charging an extravagant price, to make himself amends for long credit, and frequent losses of the whole debt.

There is another benefit much more important, which, I hope, will arise from this little institution : and that is, that the poor will acquire a habit of attending public worship on the LORD's day. By the church ticket, required to be delivered to the clerk, the congregation is greatly increased ; the habit of indolence, perhaps, rather than downright irreligion, which kept them from church, is overcome, and an improvement in the morals of my customers may reasonably be expected.

1st Nov. 1800.

No. LXXIII.

Extract from an account of what is doing, to prevent scarcity, and to restore plenty, in this country; with observations.. By THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.*

HIS MAJESTY—is doing every thing that a kind parent can do to diminish the pressure of the times, and to promote the happiness of his subjects. He has not only issued his proclamation, enjoining that which is now become necessary for the well-being of all, but particularly of the poor; but he has added, in a striking and peculiar manner, his own example;—an example, which has been followed in all the well disposed families in higher life, and, indeed, by every person of property, a few excepted, some of whom may possibly have an interest in raising the price of flour. The royal example instructs us to diminish the consumption, and almost personally to forego the use, of bread in our own houses, particularly at dinner, when we may be supplied with potatoes or rice; with this necessary consequence, that a greater quantity of bread is left for the use of the poor.

THE PARLIAMENT—has had committees of both houses, sitting, for seven weeks past, four hours every day; devising measures for lessening.

* The whole of this paper, except the first part of the observations, has been published separately for distribution, by order of the committee.

the pressure felt by all ranks from the high price of provisions. They have adopted the most effectual remedies ;—ECONOMY in the use of what we have, and IMPORTATION of food from abroad. They have voted money, and remitted the salt duties, in order to assist in supplying the country with herrings, corned cod, and other fish, in large quantities. They have encouraged, by bounties, and by every other mode, the importation of food, particularly of corn and flour from America, and rice from the East Indies. They have prohibited the manufacture of starch, and the distilling of grain. To this they have added their own personal exertions ; by attending, individually, to the poor of their own neighbourhoods ; and by following that ROYAL EXAMPLE, which, I trust, we shall all endeavour to imitate.*

THE SOCIETY FOR BETTERING THE CONDITION OF THE POOR—has not only been actively and successfully employed, in distributing every kind of information, which can contribute to diminish the pressure upon the labouring class ; but has raised a subscription, among its own members, of £4000. for supplying the metropolis, during this

* There are very few respectable families, which have not reduced the consumption of bread in their houses to four, or at most six ounces, a day for each individual.—The Earl of Egremont has gone still further ; and allows no wheaten bread to be used by any person in his family ; nor indeed any other bread, except a small allowance of barley bread at dinner ; thus leaving to the poor and needy the exclusive benefit of an article of life, now become habitually necessary to their existence.

winter, with large quantities of herrings, corned cod, and other fish. They have contracted for a weekly supply of twenty tons of cod fish, which they propose to sell at two-pence a pound. They have also agreed for a very large quantity of corned herrings. Four hundred thousand arrived as the first cargo, and were all sold in little more than a week. Four more vessels, containing above a million of herrings, have arrived since, and more are hourly expected. The Society invite all ranks of people to purchase, and to use them, with potatoes or rice, with a confidence that the general use of them must have the effect of keeping down, in some degree, the price of bread and meat.

AT MONGEWELL, DURHAM, AND AUCLAND—two thousand persons are daily supplied with savoury dressed rice, at less than a halfpenny a pound. The parochial relief at Mongewell, and in the hundreds of Binfield and Langtree, in Oxfordshire, is given, not in bread or wheaten flour, but in *rice, cheese, bacon, sugar, candles, and soap*, supplied at *prime cost*. Upon the adoption of this new mode of relief, the cottager was alarmed at the alteration ; but when he found that, instead of a smaller quantity of bread, he might carry home, in addition to his week's wages, fifteen pounds of rice (which would make above 120lbs. of dressed rice), four pounds of cheese, two pounds of bacon, with tea, sugar, candles, and soap, at a low price ; the possession of so large a weekly quantity of good eatables (in addition to the produce of all the earn-

ings of himself and his family) relieved his mind from the apprehensions of distress, and sent him home to his cottage, in complete satisfaction with himself and all mankind.

A T CHRIST'S HOSPITAL—potatoes are used at dinner three days in the week ; the saving in bread thereby, upon 620 boys, being 150 bushels of flour in the year. The use of rice and barley porridge (according to the Society's receipt, No.V.) is also introduced for the breakfasts, into the school, instead of bread ; from which a saving is expected of not less than 1000 bushels a year. In the other school of Christ's Hospital, at Hertford, where the establishment is about two-thirds the magnitude of that in London, a similar plan of diet has been adopted ; so that, with these and other regulations proposed to be made in these two schools, there will be a saving of nearly half the flour before used, probably not less than 3000 bushels a year.

I N CORNWALL—many tons of rice have been purchased by the opulent, and sold at prime cost (and, in some instances, given) to the poor. In addition, there has been provided a large quantity of corned pilchards, which have been sold, by Lord De Dunstanville and others, to the poor, at eighteen-pence a hundred ; so that with the benefit of that, and of the rice, even in these dear times, a savoury and nutritious meal may be prepared for less than a penny. A committee has been appointed, and is daily employed in securing a regu-

lar provision of food for the miners, a very numerous class of men in that country, by the procuring of pilchards, the importation of rice, and the addition of every kind of wholesome and palatable food, adapted to be a substitute for wheat-corn.

AT KIMBOLTON—several of the inhabitants have met, and have formed themselves into a *Society for Bettering the Condition of the Poor*. They have subscribed the sum of £400. and they have engaged a mill, fitted up a bake-house, employed a miller and baker, and have purchased a quantity of the best barley, for the purpose of making barley-bread, to supply that parish, and to save wheat-corn. They not only grind barley, for all comers, at four-pence a bushel, but, between the 1st and the 19th of November, they have, as a commencement of baking, made and sold 1919 half-peck barley loaves at 2od. each; a price equal to *ten-pence the quartern loaf*. The labourers purchase this bread with great satisfaction and thankfulness, and cannot but receive great benefit from it, in the course of the present winter. The best barley,* this year, (that which was got in before the wet weather commenced) produces finer and whiter barley-flour, than has been known for near a century. The bread, consequently, is of a superior kind to common barley bread.

* Some of the *barley* of the preceding harvest has been damaged by the wet weather: this damaged barley, however, makes as good *malt* as any barley.—*Wheat* also, tho' it has sprouted, and is not fit to be used in bread, makes very excellent *frumenty*.

AT THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL,—in addition to the saving, by the introduction of rice puddings, and by the discontinuance of flour, potatoes are used at the children's dinners, as a substitute for bread ;—rice, with milk, three mornings for breakfast weekly ; and rice porridge, four evenings for supper, instead of bread and cheese ; so that they now have nine meals of rice in the week. Besides this, the daily allowance of bread, to the officers and servants in the house, is reduced to half a pound a head : and they have corned herrings at dinner twice a week. The effects of these regulations, tho' apparently minute, will appear, if correctly investigated, to be of magnitude and importance ; for (not to notice the saving of meat in the officers' and servants' dinners, which amounts to about £70. a year, and of cheese in the children's suppers, which is £107. a year, making together £177.) the mere saving of bread alone, which amounts to more than half of the whole quantity of flour and bread that used to be consumed in the Hospital,* is an economy of near £800. a year to the Charity ; and to the public, of

* The quantity of bread and flour that was used in the Hospital, and I trust it was not liable to any peculiar charge of waste, was (including flour) at the rate of 100,048 lbs. of bread and flour a year ; being an average, for each individual, of twelve ounces of bread and five ounces of flour, a day. According to the present regulations, no flour is used, except a very little in the infirmary ; and the consumption of bread amounts to the reduced quantity of 42,212 lbs. a year, which is considerably less than half the former consumption.

far greater consequence than, at first view, can be conceived.

In order to explain, not only to all PUBLIC BODIES, but also to *individuals*, the great advantage of attention, particularly at the present moment, to these subjects, however apparently minute, I state the account at length, with a reasonable degree of correctness, and, certainly, without any intention to mislead.

Weekly savings.

The weekly saving of flour by the use of rice pudding, was 336 lbs. on 170 children ; upon 220 children, the present number, it would be nearly 435 lbs. ; which would make of bread about	lbs.
	560

The weekly saving of bread, by the exclusive use of potatoes at the children's dinners	165
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Ditto, by reduction of officers' and servants' allowance to half a pound a day, each	163
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Ditto, by 4 suppers a week, of rice porridge, for 220 children, instead of bread and cheese	220
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Weekly saving of bread	1108
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Multiplied by weeks	52
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	<hr/> 57,616
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At 5d. a pound, the price, when bread is one shilling and nine-pence farthing the quartern loaf	5d.
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	<hr/> £1200 6 o
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The expense of the baked rice puddings twice a week, reckoned at the advanced price of 32 shillings each day, is now £168. 8s. a year;—of the potatoes, being one additional bushel a day four days in a week, at four shillings and sixpence a bushel, is annually £46. 13s.;—and of the rice plumb-porridge suppers, estimated at present, £208. 17s. 4d. a year;—making a total of £423. 18s. 4d. and leaving a reduction to the Hospital, in the article of bread alone, of £776. 5s. 8d.; which, with the farther saving on meat and cheese, amounts, in the whole, to nearly *a thousand pounds a year*; giving, at the same time, to the general use of the poor of the kingdom (as it must lessen the price and increase the plenty of bread) the amount of more than **FIFTY-SEVEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED POUNDS WEIGHT OF BREAD**, of annual saving to the general stock of the kingdom.

OBSERVATIONS.

Whenever the means of subsistence are inadequate to the population of a country, no theoretical regulations, no attempts at compulsory prices, no imaginary and impossible system of equality, no increase of wages, nor any accumulation of poor's rate to any extent,—nothing, in short, but *increase of food, or improved economy and management in the use of it*, can supply the deficiency, or remedy the evil.—If I permit the unoccupied labourer to dig up a piece of waste land, and to enjoy the produce

of it, I benefit him and all the members of society, without injuring any one ; for I increase the common stock.—If I instruct and enable him to use those means of subsistence which he doth already possess, with greater benefit to himself and his family, the effect is nearly the same.—If I diminish the waste of food in my own house, and in those public establishments in which I have any directing power, and the saving is applied for the benefit of the needy, they are relieved without injury to others. But if, impelled by appearance of distress, without consideration of circumstances or consequences, I go to the market, and purchase provisions in abundance for my poor neighbours, I enable them to live with less industry, and to consume more food ; and thus I diminish the means of subsistence in the country, and do a real injury to all the other poor.

When, by increased cultivation, the demand for agricultural labour is increased, and with it is augmented the produce of the country, the condition of the labourer will always be improved. An increase of demand for agricultural labour has a natural and invariable tendency, to better the condition of the poor. Upon this principle the bringing of fresh land into cultivation, the adoption of modes of husbandry which increase the general produce, and occupy the cottager's wife and children, and the production of those articles which most beneficially contribute to the support of the human species, are of infinite importance. Such

is the cultivation of waste grounds by the great land-owners and farmers, and of slips of land by the cottagers. Such is the setting of wheat by hand, and the increase of the most productive modes of husbandry ; as of corn and potatoes in preference to fatted animals, and to those articles of food which are more costly in the preparation. Much also is to be done, by instructing the rich, as well as the poor, in a more economical use of food, and in a less wasteful application of the necessary articles of life.

Considerations of the relative bearings of population and subsistence, will tend to shew the necessity of continually resorting to those original sources, which are derived from agriculture ; and endeavouring thereby, if not wholly to remove the evil, at least constantly to alleviate the immediate pressure of *increasing population*. They will evince the necessity of making the poor now resident in our country workhouses, and who consume a great portion of the labour of the industrious part of the community, to provide for themselves ; not by the medium of manufactures, which are often irksome and * unhealthy, and at all events do contribute

* Manufactures are so unnatural to man, that they never thrive, except where the individual works for his own benefit, or receives a stipulated sum according to his exertions. Then, the incitement of profit, and the desire of improving his means of life, induces the artisan to submit to a species of labour, that is *artificial*, and foreign to every natural propensity of man. In work houses, where this is wanting, or where it is restricted to a sixth or a fourth of their earnings, or only to a promised benevo-

nothing to the actual production of food ; but by raising from the earth the whole of their support, and even the means of exchanging a surplus for further conveniences. There is scarcely any time of life, that is not suited to some part of these employments ; which, of all our occupations, are the most satisfactory and salutary to the human species.—

With regard to the measures now pursuing for the restoration of plenty in this country, by ECONOMY in the use of what we have, by the IMPORTATION of a greater quantity of food,* and by the encouragement of our FISHERIES, I cannot help observing, that they are so important, and at the present crisis so essential to the welfare of this country, that there can exist no individual, but who must be anxious for their success ; those few

lence, the energy of man can never be expected to be put in action. To draw forth exertions in manufactures, the person employed should have the whole of his earnings, deducting only such diet and expenses, as by his own desire are incurred for him.

* A large importation of Indian corn is soon expected from America. This is a nourishing and *heartening* food ; but it is not to be expected that it should be *immediately* brought into *general use*. There will be no difficulty, however, in applying it to the feeding of horses, oxen, and poultry, so as to save a proportion of other corn. It should be broken, or coarsely ground : and care should be taken not to give too large a quantity ; as its nutritive power is very strong. 2d Jan. 1801.—A considerable quantity of Indian meal has been since imported from America, and has been sold very cheap. It is not only a good ingredient in bread, but whetted with a little warm-water makes excellent food for poultry, or pigs, or indeed for horses and cows. 13th June, 1801.

only excepted, if there really are any such, who wish to increase their own wealth by the sufferings of their country. If, therefore, I should see any well-informed person encouraging the waste of corn or hear him declaim against care or attention, at present, in the consumption of food, I could not avoid imputing to him interested motives, and suspecting him to be an ENEMY IN DISGUISE.

The present scarcity is either *real* or *artificial*. If real,—and I fear that is too clearly ascertained,—if there is AN ACTUAL DEFICIENCY OF FOOD in this country, and if no measures had been taken to increase our means of subsistence, by importation from abroad, by increase of the supply from our fisheries,* and by care and economy at home, we must have had to encounter ALL THE MISERIES AND HORRORS OF A REAL FAMINE in this country, before we could have looked for relief to another harvest. FAMINE is an evil, which we read of in other countries, and in other ages:† an evil, to which the mere pressure of scarcity bears no possible comparison. During a period of mere scarcity,

* The supply of herrings and corned cod, this season, has had more effect in checking the excessive rise of provisions, than could be at first conceived. It is not merely that several ship-loads of herrings and corned cod have been unloaded in the river, and the subsistence of the metropolis so far increased; but the example has produced a still greater effect, and a greater abundance of those articles of food is to be found in all the little stalls of the metropolis.—Besides this, the extra supply of corned cod and herrings, in the sea-ports, and in many inland towns, has had a very beneficial effect in keeping down the price of corn.

† See a note to the Introductory Letter, p. 12.

the efforts of the rich to assist the poor, and the gratitude of the poor for those attentions, generate in the hearts of both sentiments, and virtues of inestimable value. But when FAMINE lays waste a country, it levels alike the rich and the poor, in hopeless and helpless misery.—May the mercy of Providence assist our endeavours, to keep this monster FOR EVER from our favoured island!

With the measures that are adopted, if we persevere in them as firmly and efficiently as we ought to do, we shall, in any event, have corn to supply us, until we shall have reaped another harvest. This will be the consequence of our attentions, if there exists a *real* scarcity.—If, on the contrary, the scarcity is *artificial*, the quantity of corn saved and imported, must *in spight of any artifice*, produce a REAL PLENTY throughout the land, in a very short time; and prove *the severest punishment* to those, if such there are, who may have contributed to aggravate the distresses of their country.—Let us then persevere in our present measures, whether we think the scarcity artificial, or not. If it is merely artificial, we disappoint and punish our enemies;—if real, WE SAVE OURSELVES.

29th Dec. 1800.

No. LXXIV.

Extract from an account of the superior advantages of dibbling wheat, or setting it by hand. By the Rev. Dr. GLASSE.

IN the year 1789, I prevailed with Mr. Joseph Morland, one of the best farmers in my neighbourhood, to try, on a small scale, the experiment of setting wheat by hand, instead of sowing it. In this mode of agriculture, not more than one bushel an acre is required; whereas, in sowing, more than two bushels must be used. He tried his experiment upon an acre or two; and, the season being favourable, the produce was such as he had never before experienced. It was more than 40 bushels on an acre; being above a fourth beyond the average crop of that year. The straw was remarkably strong; and the wheat, the finest sample, and of the best quality, in the market. The persons employed in setting the wheat, were some women, of whose diligence and handiness in setting beans, he had the most experience. He found that five of these women would set an acre of wheat in a day. The soil he used was a strong loam, not without a mixture of gravel in some parts of it; and it was in good condition.—The next year he planted four or five acres with similar

success ; and he has since continued the practice, tho on a small scale ; his farm consisting of grass land, with a disproportionate quantity of arable. This year he has planted eight acres ; and his example has now produced its effect on most of his neighbours ; one of whom has, this year, set by hand 30 acres of wheat, and another as much as 40 acres.—Mr. Morland calculates his average produce from set wheat, for 10 years back (the last harvest excepted) to have been 32 bushels, or four quarters the acre ; and that without any extra manure or dressing, beyond what a good practicable farmer would generally apply ; whereas in that country, where the rent of land is about 20s. per acre, no extraordinary manure being used in either case, the average produce of sown wheat does not exceed 24 bushels an acre. There is no other difference between the two modes of planting, except that, in the set wheat, the farmer may, if he chooses, keep his land perfectly clean, by using a small hoe ; and may also earth up his wheat, if he wishes to do it ; and that his straw is heavier and better, and of much more value, and the ears much longer, than of sown wheat. The account current between the two modes of planting 40 acres of wheat,* stands thus :

* The increased value of straw, and the saving of expense of sowing, are not stated.

Saving of seed on 40 acres, one bushel an acre, at 18s. per bushel	- - -	£.36 0 0
Deduct expense of setting ditto at 5s. per acre	- - - - -	10 0 0
		£. 26 0 0
Add increased produce,* being eight bushels per acre, at 18s. per bushel, on 40 acres	- - - - -	288, 0 0
		£.314 0 0

OBSERVATIONS.

Of setting wheat by hand the apparent, and ordinary, advantages are these:

1st. The original saving of expense, and of seed; being upon 40 acres, at the present price of wheat, a clear advantage of £26.—This is a considerable object, in time of scarcity; for, supposing the quantity of land cultivated with wheat in England were not more than 800,000 acres, and half of it proper for this mode of cultivation, it would amount to 400,000 bushels of wheat; a circumstance of no small importance at any time, but particularly at the present.

* This extract relates merely to setting *wheat*; but the practice may be extended much further;—where the soil is proper for it, *oats*, *pease*, *beans*, and any grain may be set by hand, with greater advantage than in any other way, particularly where old grass land is broken up.—I insert this note on the authority of a member of the committee; who is, this year employing the women and children in his neighbourhood, in setting by hand 30 acres of pease and oats.

2d. The increase of the average produce of corn,* being 320 bushels upon 40 acres. This increase of produce reckoned upon 400,000 acres, as before stated, would be 400,000 quarters of wheat, or 3,200,000 bushels.

3d. The increased value of the straw; which stands more firm, and is less liable to be lodged. The straw is fairer and larger, and fetches a better price at the market, which is a great benefit in the neighbourhood of the metropolis, and of any large towns.

4th. The **VERY USEFUL AND ACCEPTABLE EMPLOYMENT IT AFFORDS TO THE POOR**, particularly to women and children; and the advantage thereby given to cottagers with large families, and to the public in general, by the consequential saving in the poor rates.†

It should be observed that all kinds of land are not adapted to this mode of husbandry. The soil which Mr. Morland chose for his first experiment, was a strong loam, not without a mixture of gravel

* My agent, who is a careful intelligent man, informs me that, in one instance, he has reaped 48 bushels per acre, of prime wheat from setting by hand; the land in no other respect differing, either in quality, or management, from the adjoining land; the average crop of which was only 25 or 26 bushels an acre.

† In October last, a poor woman, whose child was dangerously ill, and who was obliged to apply for parish relief, lamented to me, as an aggravation, that she was prevented from going to wheat-setting. Her labour, she said, would have produced her four quartern loaves a week, and that, added to her husband's earnings, would have made any application to the overseers unnecessary.

in some parts of it.—As to the expense of labour, five women will easily plant an acre in a day. For the setting, no line is necessary to be drawn ; the women are directed to follow what is called the seam of the furrow ; and they are desired to make the holes, at the distance of two inches, or rather more, in the row ; and not to drop more than two seeds in each hole. The rows may be six or seven inches from each other, which will give the seed ample room to *tiller*. I have, myself, counted full 20 stalks, arising from what I supposed to be not more than two grains, perhaps only one.

If this mode of cultivation were adopted in every kind of land, to which it is suited, it would save many hundred thousand bushels of seed a year ; it would make an increase of one-fourth upon such average crops, and give healthful and satisfactory occupation, and means of subsistence, to thousands of women and children, at the *dead season* of the year, when there is a general want of employment. It is at this period that most women and children consider themselves as laid up for the winter, and become a burthen upon the father of the family, and in many cases upon the parish. The wife is no longer able to contribute her share towards the weekly expenses, unless (which is seldom the case) she has any peculiar skill in knitting, spinning, or sewing, or other merely domestic work.—In a kind of despondency she sits down, unable to contribute any thing to the general fund of the family,

and conscious of rendering no other service to her husband, except that of the mere care of his family. As a gratifying example of a different kind, I can state the case of my principal labourer; who, in consequence of my adopting this new mode of husbandry, earned, during last October, 26 shillings a week, by the labour of himself, his wife, and child; a benefit on his part, which has been attended by a saving to me, on the eight acres so cultivated, of above eight bushels of wheat towards my winter supply; with a fair and reasonable prospect of an increased produce, to add to the general stock of the country, and to the restoration of plenty at the ensuing harvest.

18th Jan. 1801.

No. LXXV.

Extract from an account of a supply of milk for the poor at Stockton, in the county of Durham. By ROBERT CLARKE, Esq.

IN October, 1800, upon a farm at Stockton, of 173 acres, belonging to the episcopal deanesne of Durham, the Bishop, in order to relieve the distresses of the poor in that place, on account of the want of milk, especially in the winter season, gave directions for the farm being let upon the old rent, provided that (in addition to the usual stipulations applicable to a farm, consisting partly of arable land, and partly of dairy land) it should be held upon the following terms: that the tenant, *Mr. John Robson*, should undertake to keep upon the farm, during his lease, fifteen cows of the best breed and size in the country, over and above the number necessary for his own family; not less than twelve of which should be at one time in milk, and the remainder in calf. The tenant was to sell the milk, unadulterated, and without any cream being taken from it, *to the poor of Stockton* indiscriminately, whether parishioners or not, at one halfpenny per pint, beer measure in summer, and wine measure in winter.* The tenant has

* As I flatter myself this account may induce some persons to desire to imitate the Bishop's example, I add a transcript from this part of the lease as a *legal precedent* —

engaged to produce for sale in Stockton, and in clean and proper vessels, the milk of these 15 cows,

"**A**ND it is hereby agreed that the said John Robson shall at all times during the continuance of this agreement maintain and keep upon the said farm *fifteen cows* of the best breed and size used in the country for the dairy (over and above the number necessary for his own family) not less than twelve of which shall be always in milk and the remainder in calf and shall and will sell and dispose of all the milk which shall be produced from the said fifteen cows pure unmixed and unadulterated and without having any cream taken from it *to the poor inhabitants of the town of Stockton* without any distinction being made between such as have legal settlements in that parish *and such as have settlements elsewhere* at the price of one halfpenny per pint ale measure from the fifth day of April until the tenth day of October and at the price of one halfpenny per pint wine measure from the tenth day of October until the fifth day of April **F**OR **W**HICH **P**URPOSE the said John Robson shall convey all the milk produced from the said fifteen cows twice in the day from the tenth day of March until the twenty-second day of November and once in the day from the twenty-second day of November until the tenth day of March in clean and proper vessels to the town of Stockton where he shall attend personally (unless prevented by sickness or urgent business) to sell the same **A**ND between the fifth day of April and the tenth day of October two pints of milk and between the tenth day of October and the fifth day of April one pint of milk and not more shall on every such occasion be sold and delivered to each poor person attending without favour or preference save to the aged and infirm who shall be first supplied **A**ND if any milk shall remain after distributing these quantities the same shall be disposed of to such poor persons being present who are known to have families of young children in proportion as near as may be to the number of such children **B**UT it is hereby expressly agreed that this mode of disposing of the milk may at any time be varied by the direction of the said Lord Bishop or his steward **A**ND **T**O **P**REVENT as much as may be any doubt which might otherwise arise whether all the milk produced from the said fifteen cows shall be disposed of in manner before mentioned it is hereby agreed that he shall not during the continuance of this agreement sell any milk at his own

twice a day in summer, and once a day in winter; every poor person applying, being to be intitled, without any preference, except that which is due to the aged and infirm, to one quart of milk in summer, and one pint of milk in winter; and as to the residue not so disposed of, a preference to be given to cottagers having families of young children.

The mode of selling the milk may be varied by the Bishop or his agent; and to prevent any doubts as to the fair disposal of the milk, the tenant is not to sell any milk whatever, except to the poor; nor to sell any butter or cheese to any one; nor is he to make more butter or cheese than may be wanted for the supply of his own family.—In consideration of the preceding stipulations on the part of the tenant, it has been agreed on the Bishop's part that upon the punctual performance of the tenant's agreement to the satisfaction of the Bishop's steward, the annual sum of £30. shall be discounted and allowed the tenant out of the rent.

In letting this farm a particular attention has

home or at any other place than as aforesaid to the town of Stockton and to the poor inhabitants thereof only AND that he shall not make more butter or cheese from the cows which he shall keep for the use of his family, than shall be necessary for the consumption of his own house AND LASTLY the said Robt. Clarke hereby agrees that on performance by the said John Robson in all respects of the agreement last hereinbefore contained on his part to the satisfaction of the said Robert Clarke or of the steward for the time being of the said Lord Bishop the annual sum of thirty pounds shall be discounted and allowed to him the said John Robson by and out of the said yearly rent of two hundred and twenty pounds hereinbefore reserved.

been paid to the character of the tenant, in respect of integrity, industry, and regularity. In consequence of what the Bishop has done, and in order to incorporate upon his charity, a gratuitous supply of milk for those families which cannot earn the means of purchasing it for themselves, the town of Stockton has been since divided into nine districts; in each of which five or six of the most respectable inhabitants have undertaken the office of visitors, and to attend the houses of the poor, so as to ascertain their situations and characters, and their means of livelihood. The consequence is, that upon any application for parochial relief, or for private charity, in the town of Stockton, the visitors may be referred to, and the relief to be granted may be proportioned in manner, and in degree, to the *industry*, the *necessity*, and the *character* of the object. By these means coals also have been delivered to the poor, with a great attention to justice, as well as to effect; and milk is distributing, at present, to the most necessitous and deserving, by means of tickets issued by the inspectors of the district; so as, in some degree, to confine the benefit of the Bishop's charity to those, for whom it is peculiarly intended.

In order to give a similar accommodation to the tradesmen and other inhabitants of Stockton,* and

* This town has been fortunate in the attention not only of the Bishop, but of Mr. Burdon, one of the members for the county, who has the merit of establishing another milk room at Stockton for a similar purpose, and with the fol-

thereby to promote the effect and success of this plan for the benefit of the poor, the Bishop has applied a further part of his estate, in providing a cow pasture, and inclosed fields, for the other inhabitants. Four fields, containing together twenty-four acres, have been laid together as a summer pasture ; and a number of inclosures are to be subdivided and fenced, and to have cow houses built in them at his Lordship's expense ; each of these subdivisions will contain from two acres and a half to three acres ; and will be sufficient for hay and winter pasturage for two cows.

OBSERVATIONS.

It will often come within our notice, that *the country poor* are more thankful for employment kindly offered, with the occasional aid of a little *skim milk*, or spare vegetables for their family, than for any thing that benevolence can give in the way of alms. There is, indeed, hardly any circumstance which does more essential prejudice to the cottager's domestic system of economy, and to the

owing covenants :—that the lessors should keep upon the ground ten milch cows, and sell all the milk (except what shall be used in their own families) pure, unmixed, and unadulterated, and without having any cream taken from the same, to the inhabitants of the town of Stockton, for the time being, at or under the price of one halfpenny per pint, and in quantities not exceeding three gallons per day to any one person or family ; and on performance of this covenant Mr. Burdon agrees that the annual sum of twenty pounds shall be allowed out of the rents.

health and well-being of his children, than the difficulty under which he labours, in his endeavours to procure a supply of milk.* With that variety of information upon this subject, that has for some time engaged the attention of the *Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor*, and with the zeal which the PRESIDENT possesses on this and on every other object of the society, it is not to be wondered that he should have given an early and beneficial example, of the means by which this inconvenience may be removed. For the subsistence of children, there is perhaps nothing so exclusively useful as milk ;—no other food, which assimilates and co-operates with every kind of grain of this, and of every other country, and with almost every species of vegetable and animal food ; so as to correct and ameliorate our general means of life.

Until the cottager can be supplied with milk, it can hardly be expected that his present thriftless

* It seems to be the general idea, that the system of *Cottagers keeping Cows* will not answer, except in countries where there is abundance of pasture ground.—In opposition to this opinion, a very active member of the Board of Agriculture has just published “Observations on the ‘Means of enabling a Cottager to keep a Cow, by the ‘Produce of a small Portion of arable Land.’” The plan seems to be very deserving of attention. The quantity proposed is three acres, in addition to the cottager’s original plot of garden ground.—I deprecate generally all experiments to be made by, or upon, cottagers at their own risk : they cannot afford to be speculatists. This plan, however, will, I hope, be fairly tried under the patronage of some of the members of the Board ; the cottager being enabled and encouraged to try the experiment, and being indemnified in case it should not answer. June 20, 1801.

and comfortless table of diet of dry bread, should be changed for a more healthful and economical system of food. But with the full advantage of such a supply as is provided for the poor of Stockton, it is hardly possible but that the cottager will eventually become sensible of the advantages of milk dressed with rice, as a nourishing and palatable food for his children. And whatever prejudices may have existed against rice as a food for the labouring man (prejudices which will not, however, bear the test of experience) no one can doubt of rice, prepared with milk, being a pleasant, nutritious, and economical food for children.

Charity is meritorious, not merely in respect of its motive and principle, but in proportion as it is extensive in its influence, and unexceptionable in its effect ; particularly in that of not diminishing or prejudicing the virtue, or energy, of the persons for whose benefit it is applied. As to the sums annually devoted in this instance by the founders of the milk charities at Stockton, it is not easy to say how they could have been otherwise directed with any proportionable advantage ; or how any funds can be applied with less risk of impairing the industry and the prudence of those, who come within the scope of its influence.

For an account of the benefit of the arrangement of districts, and of the division of attention in the care and conduct of the interests of the poor, I must refer the reader to the Bishop of Durham's narrative and observations, in the beginning of the

second volume of the reports of the society.—With regard to the latter plan, for encouraging the keeping of cows by the tradesmen and other inhabitants of the place, I have only to observe, that it removes the possible degree of odium or jealousy, to which, in some minds, the poor might have been subjected, by the extensive benefits provided for them ; and that the additional number of cows thereby kept in the neighbourhood of the town, increases considerably the general supply of milk for that place ; thereby diminishing the price, and leaving a surplus to be disposed of among their dependents and poorer neighbours.

8th March, 1801.

No. LXXVI.

*Extract from an account of a village shop at Hanwell.
By the Rev. GEORGE HENRY GLASSE.*

IN the course of last winter, I endeavoured to establish a village shop at Hanwell, in Middlesex. A considerable sum had been subscribed, in December 1799, for the relief of the poor; but it had been entirely exhausted before the end of January. In endeavouring to remedy the evil I had to struggle with some difficulties, particularly with that arising from the disinclination of the poor to apply money to *buy* those articles, which they had just been in the habit of receiving *gratuitously* and abundantly.

I adopted, however, the plan of purchasing by wholesale the following articles, viz.

Bohea tea; which may now be fairly considered as a necessary of life to the poor.—*Tea dust*; a commodity not very generally known, but very serviceable, and extremely cheap.—*Sugar, butter, cheese, rice, Scotch-barley, potatoes, coals, and soap*; the last of which is an article wherein the poor are subject to the greatest imposition, both as to quality and price. To these I have been since able to add the article of food introduced by the society, of *corned herrings*.

I then circulated in my parish, printed cards,

specifying the prime cost of these several articles, and the most approved receipts for dressing rice, potatoes, Scotch-barley, &c.—The depot is kept at my own house, in a room which I have built for the purpose ; to which my shop-keeper, a very honest villager with a large family, has access at ten o'clock every day, for a supply of such articles as may be necessary.

I have opened two accounts of debtor and creditor ;—the first, against the shop at large ; the second, against my shop-keeper. By the first I am enabled to ascertain the exact loss, or deficit, of every week : on comparing the sums received, and the stock in hand, with the monies expended in the purchase of the necessary articles, as fresh supplies become requisite. By the second, I can check the proceedings of the shop-keeper with the most minute exactness ; comparing the value of the articles delivered daily, and entered into a book for that purpose, with the weekly returns.

The trouble of all this, when reduced into methodical order, is inconsiderable ; and the expense, much less heavy than might be imagined. The carriage of the articles from London, a trifling loss in the weighing out of the goods (as we are careful to give a good turn of the scale in favour of the poor) and a weekly gratuity to the shop-keeper, comprise the total of the expenses ; some of which are a little alleviated by a little extra charge on the tea.

In order to extend more widely the benefits of

my plan, I had tickets printed with blanks, to be filled up by any of the creditable inhabitants of Hanwell, or by the parish officers on account of the parish, and to be signed by the person presenting the order.

At the back of these orders which are brought to me weekly, I write the price of the articles so ordered, and file the tickets ; giving credit for their amount to the shop, on the plan of bankers checks ; and debiting the person signing such ticket, or the overseer, if ordered on account of the parish, with the sum ; a bill of which I propose making out to every individual at our half-yearly vestry, which will be held in May, for auditing the parish accounts.

By this method the gentry resident in my parish have it in their power to assist those persons whom they may deem objects of their relief, with such articles as they may judge proper ; or they may indorse the tickets with any given sum, and leave it to the option of the poor persons named in it, to make their own election as to the articles.

When, on the 31st of December last, a law was passed for relieving the parish poor in other articles besides bread or money, I found that by a trifling alteration in my plan, it could be fully extended to meet the purposes of that act.

I caused a set of tickets to be printed in red ink, and to be delivered to the acting overseer, for the use of such of the parishioners of Hanwell, as at all times are on the list of pensioners, or, under the

present circumstances, might be deemed objects of occasional relief.—The overseer delivers to the poor these tickets with his signature; specifying the articles, which he wishes them to receive at the shop, on payment of the ascertained price.

The prices which the poor at present pay are, for the

	s	d
Best tea	2	5 per lb.
Tea dust	1	4
Lump sugar	0	7
Moist ditto	0	4
Cheese	0	5
Butter	0	7
Rice	0	3
Scotch-barley	0	3
Soap	0	5
Potatoes	0	6 per peck.
Coals	1	0 per bushel.
Herrings	0	0½ each.

The *difference* is indorsed on the red ticket, and added to my demand upon the parish, to be liquidated in May.

OBSERVATIONS.

By the adoption of this plan, three descriptions of persons receive the benefit of my village shop.

1st. Those who come with ready money of their own.

2d. Those who, having tickets from parish officers or from individuals, are intitled to receive gratuitously the articles specified in the tickets.

3d. Those who, producing red tickets, are entitled to the articles at a reduced price, according to the spirit of the act of parliament already alluded to.

From this simple method, the practical application of which is very easy, and the whole trouble of which, to the conductor, amounts to little more than half an hour in a day, all the wants and necessities of my poor neighbours have received very essential relief; and the poor have been rescued from the pressure of want and penury, by being put within the reach of charitable aid and benevolence from a variety of quarters.—They are thus supplied with a constant provision of wholesome and nutritious food; and it would be injustice not to add, that they are by no means deficient in gratitude on their part; nor insensible of the advantages, which result to them from the adoption of the plan. The happy consequence is that, in this season of extreme pressure and scarcity, the meanest and poorest of our villagers meet the exigency of the times without a murmur.

15th Feb. 1801.

No. LXXVII.

Extract from an account of cottagers' gardens, in the county of Cambridge. By the Rev. JAMES PLUMPTREE.

AT Arrington, in the month of July, 1800, I observed on the church door a notice from the Earl of Hardwick, addressed to the cottagers and labourers of the parish, "that premiums of one guinea and a half, one guinea, and half a guinea, would be given to the three persons of that description, who should appear to have taken the greatest care of their gardens, and to have raised and brought to perfection, in the course of the summer, the greatest quantities of pease, beans, carrots, turnips, cabbages, onions, or potatoes, in proportion to the extent of ground occupied." The gardens were to be inspected by his lordship's gardener, and three other persons appointed for that purpose, as often, and at such times, as they might think proper; and the premiums were to be adjudged on the 20th of October.—Such persons as wished to be considered as candidates for the premiums, were previously to signify their intentions to the judges.

A plan so well calculated to promote the industry, comfort, and resources of the cottager, and even of those candidates who should not be so fortunate as to gain the rewards, naturally excited

curiosity ; and on farther inquiry it appeared that his lordship had instituted the same premiums in his other parishes of Wimble and Whaddon.

When the time for adjudging the premiums was past, anxious to know the result, I made inquiries, and found that the plan, both as to external neatness, and the internal comfort and supply of their families, had fully answered. In order that these means of promoting the industry and comforts, and consequently improving the morals of the cottager, and rendering every village a pleasing scene of rural plenty and happiness, might be made known, and thereby the heads of other parishes be engaged to follow so benevolent an example, I inserted a statement of the above, with the names of the successful candidates, in the Cambridge Chronicle, for Nov. 29, 1800.

In the parish of Hinxton, in the same county, upon the first mention of these premiums, the principal land-proprietor immediately came into the plan, and gave notice that similar premiums would be distributed to the cottagers and labourers of that parish for the ensuing year. And as he and I proposed being two of the inspectors, I resolved to go over to Wimble, and see the gardens, and gain some farther information respecting them.

Accordingly, on the 18th of December, I went over to Wimble, and, accompanied by his lordship's gardener, visited the gardens of the successful candidates. All three of them lay together amongst others, six in number, with a strong outward fence

inclosing them, and divided from each other by young quick hedges, in a very thriving condition. Each garden might be about 16 poles; and, tho' it was so late in the season, and the principal crops were off the ground, yet the ground was in excellent order, and well stocked with cabbages, kale, &c. for winter vegetables. The potatoes and onions, of which each had a sufficient stock, were some of the finest I have seen this year. The cottages, to which these gardens belong, have been built within a few years by his Lordship, and are of brick and very commodious; besides the garden, each has its pig-stye and other conveniences; a pond of water is near at hand. Even taste is displayed in these rustic scenes; and a honey-suckle, twining round a pole, formed an arch over the entrance into some of the gardens. We next visited the garden of another cottager, who, tho' he had not gained one of the premiums, had been distinguished for his industry. It was not above three poles of ground, but it was well stocked, and in good order.

The garden of the cottager who gained the first premium at Arrington, was larger than those at Wimble. It might be about 20 poles. This had been kept in order by a very hard-working man with a family of seven children; the eldest of which, a girl, was about 15 years of age: he used to work at it early and late. Besides a variety of other vegetables, he had got from it 50 bushels of potatoes, which at that time sold at 4s. per bushel.

The gardens of the two other successful candidates, and others which I visited, were all in good order, and well stocked for the time of year. As I thought I could not make a more acceptable present to these sons of industry, I took with me some of the *Information to Cottagers*, published by the society; a copy of which I gave at each cottage.

Besides the encouragement given to the cottagers in their gardens, he permits them to plant potatoes in his new plantations, and on the fallows, provided they dung the ground. One man from six load of dung, had got 70 bushels of potatoes. Some waste ground by the road side had likewise been inclosed for the poor, which they sowed in what is called *lazy bed*. The method of doing this is, a space eight feet wide is marked out for the bed, and then another two feet wide for the path, and so on. The potatoes or eyes, are laid on the sward, in alternate rows; the sward is then dug up from the path, and laid over the potatoes, and as they grow they are earthed up with the soil out of the path, which likewise serves as a drain, if the weather should prove wet.

As I found it was with difficulty that three persons were selected at Whaddon, deserving of the premiums, and that the gardens* were not so well

* In a separate sheet is added a COTTAGER'S GARDEN CALENDAR; to inform and assist those cottagers who wish to make the most of their gardens, for the benefit of themselves and their families. Some of the articles are directed to a

worth seeing, I did not go thither; but was happy to find that a spirit of exertion began to be excited among the cottagers there, and they had promised better for the ensuing year.

When the premiums had been awarded, the nine successful candidates, and six others (three from each of the parishes of Wimble and Arrington, recommended to Lord Hardwick's generosity on account of their industry) attended at church on the Sunday following, after which the gardener conducted them into the great hall, where his Lordship distributed the rewards, with a gratuity to each of the others, with some good advice on the occasion; recommending industry and virtue in general, and promising his friendship so long as they were deserving of it.

OBSERVATIONS.

The advantages arising from this plan, appear to be so very obvious, that it seems scarcely necessary to enumerate them. For the sum of three guineas in a parish, a number of families, * perhaps all the cottagers, are excited to industry. A valuable stock of vegetables is produced, both for summer and winter consumption; and great assistance given towards the keep of a pig. Besides the little profit by sale. It may be had gratis, at Hatchard's, by the members of the Society.

* There were 14 candidates at Wimble, 13 at Arrington, and 10 at Whaddon.

good accruing to the cottager in thus finding useful and innocent employment for his leisure hours, and in keeping him from the alehouse, an example is set to his family ; which will probably be trained up, under his care, to follow the same useful employment throughout life. At the same time the cottager must derive no small degree of satisfaction, from the idea that he is become the object of the attention, and commendation, of his richer neighbour.

The only difficulty, which seems to occur, is in forming a correct estimate of the comparative merits of the gardens. This, however, I think is more in appearance, than in reality. I do not apprehend that the sum total of the excellence will often be so nicely balanced as to make it difficult. The requisites, in the judges, seem to be *science* and *impartiality*. The first of these was, most unquestionably, possessed at Wimple, and there is no cause to doubt of the existence of the other. At Hinxton, however, to the head and under gardener, we have added a very honest farmer and ourselves ; thinking that some additional advantage might accrue from our attention ; and from our being able to judge, in some degree, of the other estimates, by going our rounds, keeping an eye to the cottager, and, on his cottage, his family, and his garden ; and thus getting an insight into the real merits of our poorer neighbours.

The method of estimating seems to be, to measure the ground of each candidate ; and, at proper

times, to go round, and value the respective crops. He, who produces most in proportion to his ground, is most deserving. A paper divided into columns, or a small memorandum book, with the name of the candidates at the top of each column or page, and their respective portions of ground, should be provided, and the memorandums and estimates placed under each. Two things seem especially to demand attention ; one, that the visits should be uncertain, in order that the cottager may be obliged to be always prepared ; and the other, that the cottager may have the power to invite a visit, in order that his crops may be seen at the time, when he himself thinks them in perfection.

Jan. i, 1801.

No. LXXVIII.

Extract from an account of the free chapel, in West-street, St. Giles's. By THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.

ON Sunday, the 25th of May, 1800, a free chapel was opened in West-street, near the Seven Dials, for the benefit of the poor. Those who have witnessed the pathos and energy with which the Bishop of London delivers and enforces the divine truths and ordinances of the Gospel, may conceive how powerful and impressive his discourse must have been, on this occasion ; addressed as it was to the feelings and understandings of his audience, and received by them with silent and unfeigned satisfaction.

The chapel was extremely crowded ; not merely by the poor, but by many of the other classes of life. The singing was peculiarly striking and affecting ; all the persons who were present, standing up, and uniting earnestly and zealously in this delightful act of devotion. In the afternoon the Rev. Dr. Glasse preached, with much effect upon his audience ; if fixed and gratified attention can be admitted as evidence of the impression of the preacher. On the succeeding Sunday the sacrament was administered at the chapel ; and fifty persons, chiefly the aged poor, received the communion* with decency and devotion.

* The sacrament has been occasionally administered, and always decently and properly attended by the poor.

The necessary arrangements were immediately made for the care of the chapel ; which was placed under the direction of the Bishop of the Diocese, the Rector* of the Parish, and eight of the principal subscribers.† The Rev. Mr. Vevers was engaged as the officiating clergyman. The duty has been since regularly attended, and the psalms and hymns continued to be printed, and placed for the poor in their pews ; and there has been gradually forming a pious and decent, tho' not, as yet, a numerous congregation.

It had been conceived that it would be better, and more conducive to the permanency of the institution, that the poor should *gradually* find their way into the chapel ; rather than by any special means to press their premature attendance. No one was entertained that their habits would be suddenly and entirely changed ; and that those, who from infancy had passed the **LORD'S DAY** in oth and brutal indulgence, should be *at once* mended ; and be prepared regularly to attend

here has been a very full attendance to-day, and on Good Friday, and on the preceding Sunday ; particularly upon the evening service, which now begins at *half past six* clock. April 5, 1801.

* The Bishop of Chichester ;—who has frequently dined for the benefit of the poor, at the free chapel.

† The chapel had been occupied by a Methodist Society, which had then six months to come of their term. The Society gave up immediate possession to the new lessee, rent free, during the remainder of their lease ; undertaking to make good all delapidations, and accompanying this liberal resolution, by the acceptable donation of £50. to the Giles's soup-house.

with cleanliness and decency, in a place of divine worship. A complete and permanent reform was not to be immediately expected ; and a temporary conformity, a mere yielding for the time to pressing instances, compelling them to come in, did not promise any stable improvement.

An organ has been lately provided for the chapel, and an organist engaged ; and the Rev. Mr. Gurney has undertaken to officiate as the minister of the chapel from Lady-day 1801 ; and to answer for the rent * and expenses being paid out of the produce of the pews in the gallery, with the trifling additional allowance of fifty guineas a year. In order to render the gallery more commodious, some addition has been made to the pews, and part of them have been lined and dressed up. Many of the parishioners who were extremely anxious, upon the late vacancy of their Lectureship, that their parish church should have had the benefit of Mr. Gurney

* The St. Giles's soup-house is rented of the free chapel ;—the parlour and kitchen floors of the adjoining house being fitted up as the kitchen, with boilers and other conveniences for preparing 1000 gallons of soup at a time ; the space behind being converted into a reservoir for holding 2500 gallons of water, with a store-room over it ; a protecting from the weather all the poor, who are waiting till the soup is delivered. The other part of the house supplies a room for their committee, and for some other similar charitable committees, and apartments for the attendants.—One of the original objects of the free chapel was the laying in a depositary of coals for the poor. This has been carried into effect by the committee of St. Giles's soup-house ; which has this winter laid in the cellars under the chapel 250 chaldrons of coals, which have been sold to the poor at one shilling a bushel.

tents, as a preacher, have already applied for seats; and there is little reason to doubt that all the pews in the gallery will be very speedily engaged; a circumstance, that will naturally contribute to fill the seats below.

OBSERVATIONS.

Whoever takes a view of the parochial districts, in the western end of our metropolis, will find that, in the four parishes of Marybone, St. James's, Giles's, and St. George's Hanover-Square, with a population of some hundred thousand inhabitants, there are only *four churches* for the reception of those, who are desirous of attending divine worship, according to the rites of the Church of England. Three of these are of a moderate size; but the other, that of Marybone,* hardly fit for the chapel of some petty, insulated hamlet. In these four parishes, the *utmost* exertions of the parochial clergy, combined with the greatest talents, must be utterly inadequate to the religious duties of their respective districts.† Besides which, in these,

* The population of Marybone is now returned, and the size of that parish church may easily be known. It will therefore not be difficult to ascertain whether the population of that parish requires 150 such parish-churches as its present; or whether 120 such churches would be sufficient for the inhabitants. June 27, 1801.

† Those who attend the poor of the metropolis in their habitations, have frequent and painful occasion to lament their want of that instruction and consolation in their dying moments, which Christian charity would desire them.

and in almost every other church in the metropolis, the pews are let ; and the only places left for those parishioners, who wish to continue members of the established church, and yet cannot afford to pay a very heavy rent for their seats, is the *standing-room* in the aisles, and sometimes an occasional neglected bench ; an accommodation, improper, indecent, and unfit for the sacred and solemn service then attended ; and such as, even if decent in itself, would not be adequate to the admission of *one-hundredth part of those, who ought to have seats in their own parish church.*

It is of very little or no consequence, that, in these four parishes, there are many private chapels. Those chapels are let at *rack-rent*, to some speculating undertaker : the pews, and every part of them; being laid out and disposed (as other private property generally is) *so as to produce the greatest possible income with the least outgoings*; and the free admission of the poor being directly opposite to the principle, on which they are built and opened ; and perfectly incompatible with the *great object*, of making a very large revenue, by the admission of very genteel company.

The consequence of this is, that many of the

to receive. In other sects, and in country parishes, where all the members of a congregation are personally known to the ministers, these duties may be completely fulfilled ;—but in the populous and extended parishes of the metropolis, no zeal, however indefatigable, can enable the present number of clergymen to do *all* that *cought to be done.*—
June 30, 1801.

better and more serious of the labouring poor are driven and compelled to take refuge in the different places of worship, which the more accommodating spirit of other Christian sects provides for their religious duties. But this is not all: the greater number of these neglected Christians *preserve their orthodoxy, by never attending any church at all;* and, in a country, justly boasting of the purity of its religious doctrines,—extremely fortunate in the possession of a pious and learned clergy,—and consecrating very ample funds to the support of a most respectable church establishment,—two-thirds of the lower order of people in the metropolis, live as utterly ignorant of the doctrines and duties of Christianity, and are as errant and unconverted pagans, as if they had existed in the wildest part of Africa.

It may appear to future ages an inexplicable enigma, that the social benevolence and religious energy of this country should have been entirely exhausted in missions to distant and unknown countries,* while the centre of our metropolis re-

* If, in their zeal for converting the inhabitants of the *Antipodes*, certain associations had not totally forgot, and entirely neglected, our own *heathen metropolis*, I should not have observed on the expediency or inexpediency of any of their measures. Without noticing, however, any other instance, and certainly not meaning to convey censure upon any particular Society, let us take the late mission to Ota-heite. An island in the southern ocean is visited by two or three Christian missionaries, attended by several of their countrymen; many of the crew, or at least of the English sailors who preceded them, not only without the habits and knowledge of Christianity, but without even the form or

mained uncultivated and forgotten ; and the spring, from which religion and virtue, or vice and iniquity, must flow through a peopled land, was neglected and deserted.—Far, very far, am I from wishing that the zeal of the professors of the Christian faith, should be checked ; or the progress of its divine light retarded.—I look forward with confidence and hope to that period, when the genuine doctrines of Christianity, uncontaminated by human error, and unadulterated by the dogmas of any sect, shall shed their benign influence over the whole race of Adam ;* and “ the earth shall be “ full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters

semblance of religion. While the example and the conversation of the latter were present to the inhabitants of the island, what could be expected from the preaching of the former ?

* Sir William Jones, who perhaps had more power of acquiring and applying information on this subject, than any other of his countrymen, after stating briefly the obstacles to the general extension of the Christian faith among the *Muselmans* and the *Hindus*, proceeds thus :—“ We may assure ourselves, that neither *Muselmans* nor *Hindus* will ever be converted by any mission from the church of Rome, or from any other church : and the only human mode, perhaps, of causing so great a revolution, will be to translate into *Sanskrit* and *Persian*, such chapters of the prophets, particularly *ISAIAH*, as are indisputably evangelical ; together with one of the *Gospels*, and a plain prefatory discourse, containing full evidence of the very distant ages, in which the predictions themselves, and the history of the divine person predicted, were severally made public ; and then quietly to disperse the work among the well-educated natives ; with whom, if in due time it failed of producing very salutary fruit by its natural influence, we could only lament, more than ever, the strength of prejudice, and the weakness of unassisted reason.” Sir William Jones’s Works, Vol. I. p. 279.

"cover the sea." Regarding, however, the established church of this country, as the most pure and unmixed of all the existing sects of Christianity, and being really and conscientiously attached to it, it is my most anxious wish that every scandal and evil should be removed; and that, in this respect, the Church of England should not only have as much, but should possess more merit, in earnestly inviting the poor to hear the Gospel preached to them, than the methodists, the dissenters, or any other of our Christian and Protestant brethren.

To those who view, with a fixed and attentive eye, the awful series of events, which is now desolating, and we may hope at the same time reforming, the Christian world, much important observation will occur on the present subject. It is written in the recent History of Europe, it is inscribed in the summary of the ten preceding years, that there is no protection against the calamities which are now laying waste our quarter of the globe, except that purity of faith* and integrity of

* The effect of FAITH in promoting the prevalence of all the most excellent Christian virtues, is thus beautifully described by Bishop Hall.—"He that believes cannot but have HOPE: if hope, PATIENCE. He that believes and hopes must needs find JOY IN GOD. If joy, LOVE OF GOD. He that loves God, cannot but LOVE HIS BROTHER: his love to God, breeds PIETY, and care to please, —sorrow for offending, fear to offend: his love to men, FIDELITY and CHRISTIAN BENEFICENCE.—Vices are seldom single; but virtues go ever in troops: they go so thick, that, sometimes, some are hid in the crowd: which yet are, but appear not. They may be shut out from sight;—they cannot be severed," Bishop Hall's Holy Observations, p. 126.

life, which are to be derived from the vivifying influence of religion ; extending, like the solar ray, *to every class* of our fellow subjects, and operating in the moral amendment of the great mass of the people.

It has been the object of some individuals, and certainly a very desirable object, that Sunday should be observed among us, with more decency and devotion, than are at present apparent in the metropolis : and it has been frequently observed, that, in the gradual progress from petty offences to those atrocious crimes which strike at the very root of society, the habitual neglect of the SABBATH, and of its sacred ordinances, is always a prominent and peculiar feature. It is by the gradual effects of that neglect, that the reverence of the Divine Being, implanted as it is in our frame, and nourished and confirmed by every object of creation, is at length eradicated from the human breast ; and the hardened sinner is ultimately left a prey to his own evil and corrupt imaginations.

But, surely, it must appear to be an obvious truth, that, if we would promote the religious observance of the Lord's day among the poor, we must not merely set them the example, but must ourselves make the provision for their religious duties. Without this, there is no use in the increase of vain statutes, which can never be executed to any good purpose ; statutes, which can, in no event, produce more than the *semblance* and *shadow* of religion in the country. It may, however, be

confidently asserted, that with the benefit of such a provision, effectually and properly made, and eventually accepted and enjoyed, we should have little or no call for any new law or ordinance on the subject ; but we should find, among the great mass of the people, the same attention to the religious duties of the Lord's day, as is now shewn by the individuals of those Christian sects among us, who make a decent and proper provision for the religious duties of their necessitous brethren.

The periodical return of the seventh day, for the instruction of the minds of the poor in divine knowledge, and for the rest and relaxation of their bodies from the cares and labours of life, is, in the Christian world, a most important advantage ; whether we regard the situation of the labouring class in this fleeting period of existence, or whether we turn our views to the awful and interesting concerns of futurity. But it is vain to expect, that the poor should regard that day, as any thing but a privileged time for idleness and intemperance, exempt from the call to toil and labour, unless we supply them with other occupation, and furnish their minds with that religious instruction,* and

* I submit to the reader's consideration two leading questions, respecting what, in my view of this interesting subject, is due to the poor.—The first, whether the poor have not a claim on the rich and independent, for a certain portion of that time which is not occupied by a proper attention to their domestic or public occupations, or by a reasonable relaxation of leisure and amusement ? (*care and wretched anxiety being the consequence of excess of application* in respect of the first ;—and of the latter, *weariness and*

with those precepts and motives, which may have an operative effect upon their lives and conduct: and, when so long and so general a neglect has taken place, it is vain and idle to expect that, without much time, much attention, and much anxiety on our part, the poor should immediately and spontaneously flow into the chapels that may be opened for them. The evil (it must be allowed) is too deep, and the habit too inveterate, to admit any expectation of that kind. But the benefit of *such a reform, in London*, is so great, and so important in its consequences; it is so essential to the political existence of this country, and to the security and happiness of its inhabitants, that I know no object, the advantages of which I can name in preference to, or even in competition with, it.

With these sentiments, and with this conviction on my mind, I venture to submit to those, from whom only such a measure can properly originate, the expediency of providing some remedy for this national evil.—What I have to suggest may be considered as a *mission for the instruction and conversion of our neglected fellow creatures*, THE

(*listlessness of spirit.*) The second question is, whether the ministers of the Gospel can quite satisfy themselves, that the general duties of the clerical order are completely fulfilled, until the Gospel has been really and effectually preached (as far as may be done) to *every class* of men in the kingdom? And in the mean time, whether any thing which they can do in the performance of works of supererogation, or even in attempts to convert distant nations, can be admitted as a *commutation of their own peculiar and indispensable service?*

PAGAN INHABITANTS, IN THE CENTRE OF LONDON. I should be very far from soliciting subscriptions for the support of the petty chapel of St. Giles's, whatever its funds might be. I consider that of as little use or service, unless as the first in number and order of many such houses of prayer and instruction, which our duty to our fellow subjects, and the circumstances of the metropolis require: It may stand prior in time, but I flatter myself it will be the last in magnitude and consequence, of many free chapels, which will eventually be opened for the benefit of the poor of the metropolis.

My proposal is that a society be formed for promoting the foundation and establishment of free chapels for the poor, and the increase and improvement of their religious habits, within the realm of England:—that every subscriber of fifty guineas in one sum, or of five guineas a year, shall be a governor of the society; and that in case of a donation of 100 guineas or more, the donor shall, for every 50 guineas beyond what would constitute his own subscription, have the power of naming one life-governor: the specific appropriation of the funds being for the establishment and support of free chapels for the poor, in the metropolis, and in any of the populous towns of England; subject, as all other chapels and churches of the established church must be, to Episcopal control and government.

Whenever such a society shall be formed, and

the directing power placed in unexceptionable hands, I will venture to hope that some addition to its funds may be afforded by government. It may also be expected, that, with a proper and economical application of those funds, every thousand pounds entrusted to the direction of it, may afford the means of forming and establishing a new free chapel for the poor, either in London, or in Manchester, Bristol, Norwich, or in some other of our most populous towns.—What the effects may eventually and ultimately be, and what strength and stability it may give to the civil and ecclesiastical establishment of the country, and what renovation of vigour and force to the moral and religious habits of the poor, I leave to the reflection and appreciation of the reader.

2d March, 1801.

I am to gift a sum of £1000 to the
Baptist Chapel at St. John's, to be used
in the purchase of land for the erection of
a suitable tabernacle thereon, and to be left
a trifling balance in the hands of the
Baptist Foreign Mission Society, to be
expended in the same cause. I
have no objection to the sum being
appropriated to any other object, if
any portion of it is required for that purpose.
I have given £1000 to the
Baptist Foreign Mission Society, and
will do so again, if required.

No. LXXIX.

Extract from an account of the plan for supplying bread at Exmouth. By Colonel RIDDELL.

IN the beginning of January, 1801, the high price of bread at Exmouth was on the point of producing the most serious consequences. A meeting was called of the inhabitants and farmers of the neighbourhood; the latter of whom liberally furnished 700 bushels of wheat, at 14s. per bushel, to a committee of gentlemen, of which Lord Teignmouth is president, and which has been formed for the purpose of providing for the relief of the poor. Upon my suggestion, this was made into brown bread, and sold to the poor; the baker, by agreement, furnishing a loaf of 4 lbs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. for one shilling. In consequence of this agreement there was prepared the plan, detailed in the following statement, and submitted to the same committee of gentlemen. It was then agreed, by Lord Teignmouth, Colonel Cousmaker, the Rev. T. S. Sawbridge, and myself, to raise a sum sufficient to commence the carrying of the plan into execution, upon a general scale, in that town. This has been done; and it has been attended with the greatest public advantage. The principal people of the town and neighbourhood are now employed in the extension of the measure, and in the improvement of the mode by which it is to be conducted.

The statement, submitted to the committee, was as follows, viz.

1. A bushel of wheat is estimated at 62 lbs. and ground into meal will produce 61 lbs.

2. A bag is $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, and will consequently produce $152\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of meal. This, made into bread, will produce 190 lbs. and will yield 40 loaves, each 4 lbs. 12 oz.

The price of a bushel of wheat say

17s. 6d. is per bag	- - -	£.2	3	9
The miller, for grinding	- - -	0	1	3
The charge of the baker for trouble, &c.	0	5	10	<hr/>
		£.2	10	10

The price of one loaf of four pounds and twelve ounces is one shilling and three-pence farthing; which, for forty loaves, amounts to £.2 10 10

In this estimate the whole of the meal produced is calculated. The price of the loaf at Exmouth being then one shilling and seven-pence, a saving of $3d\frac{1}{4}$. on each loaf would be made to the purchaser.

The quartern loaf, of standard wheaten bread, now sells at twenty-pence. On the foregoing calculation I find the quartern loaf of standard wheaten bread, weighing 4 lbs. 5 oz. can (after yielding a *handsome profit* to the baker) be sold for 1s. $3d\frac{1}{4}$. which is a saving of $4d\frac{1}{4}$. on each quartern loaf.

To carry this plan into effect the baker, to use

his own words, asks only to be released from the rammels of the mealman, and to be enabled to purchase his wheat at the market price. This is ot to be done without pecuniary aid. It therefore was proposed to raise a fund by subscription, to arry this plan into effect; and to give premiums o those bakers who produce the best bread of both kinds; and in particular where they shall be able o supply it at a reduced price.

The proposal of Mr. William Pendell, baker, of Exmouth, delivered in in January last, certified hat he had worked a bag of corn agreeably to the statement submitted to the committee of gentle-
nen, of which Lord Teignmouth is president : and he agreed to work on the terms so proposed and submitted to the committee, declaring that he considered such terms as a fair equivalent for his trouble. Other bakers at Exeter and Bath, have readily agreed to adopt the above measure, with the aid of similar subscriptions, whenever they should be formed.

The calculation of the weight of wheat, per bushel, in this statement may appear too high ; as the common average is generally stated, not to exceed 56lbs. But the bakers, as far as they have been consulted, have found it answer to them, and have been satisfied with the statement.

OBSERVATIONS.

If this plan were generally adopted, particularly in towns of the second magnitude, it would tend

much to relieve the public from the profits of the middle man, which enhance materially the price of the necessaries of life. Whilst the statement, allowing the price of wheat to be 17s. 6d. per bushel, gives a loaf of 4 lbs. 12 oz. for 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. it appears from respectable authority, that by the Exeter assize, at the same period, the standard wheaten loaf (wheat being 15s. per bushel), was to cost 1s. 6d. and to weigh 4 lbs. 11 oz. 13 drs. In the environs of London the quatern loaf, according to the present assize, is 1s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. whilst the price of wheat * is, on an average, 21s. a bushel. On the foregoing plan adding 3s. 6d. to 17s. 6d. the price of the bushel; two-pence half-penny will be the increased price of the loaf; upon 40 loaves produced from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, or 1s. 6d. a loaf, throwing the fraction to the baker, which would be a clear saving of four-pence half-penny per loaf. This confirms the preceding statement; and proves it to be the interest of the gentlemen resident in, or connected with, every

* It may not be improper in this place to notice the experiments now making with Mr. Ferriman's machine for blanching wheat. The operation is said to take off the mere external husk; after which the wheat is ground, and the flour made into bread, without any other part of the produce being separated, either in the form of bran, or pollard. The calculation is that the husk, so taken from a bushel of wheat weighing 60 lbs. will amount only to three pounds and a half; leaving 56 lbs. and a half of the entire flour; which is stated to make 93 lbs. of bread. I have eat some of the bread, and found it very good and palatable.—I am indebted for this note to the Rev. Mr. Robison, of Grafton. B. 29th March, 1801.

populous place, to promote an establishment of this nature; because not only the poor would be supplied with this necessary of life on more moderate terms, but every person would be enabled to save upon the consumption of each loaf, used daily in his family, at the rate of £6. 1s. 8d. per annum, estimated by the present statement; but which would rise or fall with the relative price of wheat; and would increase in a still greater proportion, in case the price of wheat should advance.

It may also be hoped from the example before us, that farmers would be disposed to assist the effect of such contributions, by furnishing a portion of their grain, at a reduced price, for the exclusive use of the poor; for whom the committee of gentlemen, entrusted with the management of such subscriptions, might have bread made with the whole meal, to be sold to them at a very easy rate.

6th March, 1801.

No. LXXX.

Extract from an account of what has been done for the relief of the poor at Whelford. By the Earl of WINCHILSEA.

It was deemed necessary during the high price of corn, that some general system should be adopted for the relief of the poor in the parish of Whelford, in the county of Gloucester; and it was conceived to be of some importance, that the relief should be so given, as not to diminish the spur to industry. It had been apprehended that the usual mode of taking the amount of every individual's earnings, and making it up to a certain sum, proportioned to the number of his family, *but having no reference to his or their industry and exertion*, might have the effect of weakening the spirit of honest labour among the poor, and habituate them to depend, not on their own diligence and care, but on parochial funds, for the support of themselves and their families.

The following plan has therefore been adopted by the vestry of the parish of Whelford. A certain and a moderate sum has, from time to time, according to the season of the year, been fixed as the average earnings of a labourer with common industry, working at the ordinary price of labour in the parish. This weekly sum has of late been fixed at nine shillings; being what, it was

conceived, every honest labourer might assuredly earn, with the necessary exceptions of casualty, or sickness.

To this sum the parish has added such amount of weekly relief, as had, in the whole, enabled the cottager to purchase weekly, for each individual in family, ten pounds and a half of wheaten bread, of such quality as is in general use in the neighbourhood; and has also (besides some allowance of coals) allowed sixpence a week each, for other necessaries. The most industrious and best disposed of the cottagers have not applied this allowance of money, to the purchase of wheaten bread; but have bought barley, and have had it ground, and mixed with weaten flour; seldom less than half barley, and frequently two-thirds. In some instances they have made their bread entirely of the unmixed barley.

In this mode of relief, if labourers reap or mow by the acre, thrash by the bushel, or quarter, or do any other task work, it is obvious that they have all their extra-earnings, beyond the common price of labour by the day, to themselves for their own benefit, in addition to the same allowance as others receive. Thus it happens that necessary relief is supplied, to meet a temporary pressure, without discouraging, but rather giving effect and value to, their industry, by the extra advantages and enjoyments which they receive from it.

Besides this, the overseers, by direction of the parish did, at Lady-day, 1800, hire 14 acres of

land, to be allotted in gardens, for the labouring poor of the parish. The quantity appropriated to each cottager, is varied in some proportion, according to the magnitude of their families, and to their probable exertions in the cultivation of the ground. The largest garden contains about 60 perches; the smallest 20; except in some few cases, where there is only one, or perhaps two, in family; and then they have as little as 14 perches.

The land is a dry, healthy, warm gravel; the rent paid for it is 24 shillings an acre. It was intended that they should each pay a proportion of the rent, taxes excepted; but the pressure of the times has been so severe upon the poor this season, that it is proposed to dispense with the rent this year. This supply of garden ground is very acceptable to them, particularly to the industrious labourers, most of whom have planted part with potatoes; and altho' the season has been unfavourable for that root, some of these cottagers have had from 15 to 16 sacks produce, a supply that must have been very beneficial to them this winter, and of no small advantage to the parish in diminishing the call for parochial relief.

It was by no means a subject of surprise that, of these cottagers, some who have been long in the habit of relying on parish relief for the greater part of their support, should have neglected the cultivation of their gardens; for it has been noticed in the parish of Whelford, as well as in other parishes, "that those who, for a length of time,

ave been burthensome to the rates, *lose all inclination to exertion*; * and endeavour, as much as possible, to impose on the parish officers." The overseers, therefore, do not put these cottagers in possession, as tenants from year to year; but only permit them to crop the land upon sufferance; in order that there may be no difficulty in resuming the gardens from those, who shall not pay a proper attention to them; so as to put them into those hands that will cultivate them to the greatest advantage.

OBSERVATIONS.

Such are the measures, which the judicious FARMERS of the parish of Whelford have adopted for the benefit of a parish; where, I understand, there is no resident clergyman or gentleman, to give assistance, or to concur in the execution of a plan so wise and liberal, and so essential to the permanent interest of the landed property. With regard to the first measure, compared with the general system of relief now adopted in England, I must premise generally, that if we make it the interest of the poor to deceive us, and to live in idleness, we must not wonder at the necessary consequence, *that we are imposed upon, and that they are idle*; and when we are reasoning upon the wickedness of such con-

* This is the observation of Mr. Edmonds, of Whelford, and expressed in his own words.—The materials of this account are supplied by him.

duct, we ought to reflect that half the criminality at least, and the entire cause and origin of it, will rest with ourselves.—As to the second point, I cannot but wish the experiment were fairly tried in other parishes, whether £16. 16s. or even ten times that sum, doled out in pecuniary pittances of parish relief, can produce half the beneficial effects, that these 14 acres of ground, hired by the parish at the rent of sixteen guineas a year, and apportioned out among the industrious labourers; even with the supposition, that the hardness of the times will prevent the rent, at present, from being returned to the parish. Its effects are of the most beneficial nature;—the affording of satisfactory occupation to the cottager, for hours otherwise spent in the alehouse,—the habituating of families to maintain themselves,—the breeding up of the rising generation to industry and forethought, and the addition, in the instance of this one parish, and in a year of scarcity, besides other articles of food, of near 2000 bushels of potatoes, to the private store, and to the domestic plenty, of the cottagers of that parish.

The diminution of industry and exertion, and the prevalence of indolence and thoughtlessness among the poor, whereof we have so frequent and so clamorous observation, are not to be imputed to the poor laws, but to the peculiar manner in which they are executed. It is, indeed, most wearisome and melancholy, to contemplate so many sad and desponding examples among the poor,—of childhood, without industry;—without the use, with-

ut the knowledge, and frequently without the power of employment ;—youth, without foresight, and without the habit of laying up any thing as a provision for the increased demands of the marriage state ;—mature life, with means of subsistence always inadequate to a numerous and increasing family ;—and old age, receiving a comfortless and hankless subsistence, in a parish workhouse.

The power of supplying regular and abundant means of support for all the aged, the helpless, and the unfortunate in society ; seems to be an exalted and enviable prerogative. But in this, and in every other similar exercise of superior authority, constant and unremitting attention is necessary. If the idle and vicious are to receive the same benefit, and are to be intitled, for their wives and families, to the same support through life, as the honest and the industrious,—if there is to be no discrimination of merit or claim,—the incitement to industry and virtue will cease, and the cottager will be thereby deprived of that spur to exertion and attention, which is essential to the well-being of society, and which constitutes his own most valuable possession.

It is therefore our duty, not to afford to the poor the means of repose and indolence, but to offer them encouragement to industry ; not to increase the propensity to vicious indulgence, but to promote the habits of religion and virtue. To effect this, we ask no additional regulations,—no new experimental poor laws,—no accumulation of penalties

on misconduct.—We seek only this,—and I am sanguine enough to hope that *the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor* will be equal to the attainment of so desirable an object,—that the poor-rates of this kingdom shall be gradually reduced by the adoption of a new system with regard to the poor;—by increasing their resources and means of life, and thereby placing them above the want of parish relief;—by watching with a benevolent eye over their conduct and necessities;—by opening in every parish schools for poor children, and a poor-house (like that of Boldre) not liable to the ordinary and popular objections;—and by imitating the wisdom and philanthropy of the farmers at Whelford; and so administering parochial relief, as eventually to diminish the call for it; and to make it subservient to the great and primary object,—of promoting virtue and industry.

26th March, 1801.

No. LXXXI.

Extract from an Account of the Soup-House, in West-street, St. Giles's. By Sir FREDERICK MORTON EDEN, Bart.

THE soup-house in West-street, Seven Dials, was opened on the 10th of January, 1800, upon the plan of giving general relief for all applicants, from any part of the metropolis. The quantity of soup sold there in three months, between the middle of January and the middle of April, 1800, amounted to 18,457 quarts; for which the sum of £493. 11s. 5d. was received from the applicants. From that time to the 25th of July, it was conceived that the individuals would be more relieved, and with more benefit to the public, by a supply for their families, of potatoes and pork; and of savoury rice, prepared according to the receipt of the Society for the poor. The latter, they had the pleasure to find, was very acceptable to the applicants; particularly to those who had several small children. In one week above 1,400 quarts of savoury rice, were purchased by the poor; and during the period from the 18th of April to the close of the season in July, the following articles were sold at the soup house.

66,270 pounds of potatoes,
81,600 herrings,
14,842 quarts of savoury rice,
1,988 pounds of boiled pork.

By these means, during the winter of 1800, many thousand persons, who had no other means of support, received occasional relief; and it was a very gratifying circumstance to the committee which conducted the soup-house, that in many instances persons, who had at first come dirty and negligent in their apparel, became in a short time decent and neat in their persons, and regular and orderly in their behaviour.

The liberal and well directed assistance of the Committee at Lloyd's, encouraged the exertions of the Committee of the soup-house in West-street; and on the fourth of December, 1800, when it appeared that the general pressure would continue another season,* the Committee of Management for the soup-house renewed their labours with increased activity. It is the peculiar misfortune of the poor, who constitute a very considerable part of the neighbouring population of St. Giles's and St. Ann's Soho, that, generally speaking, they are

* The articles of food sold at the soup-house between the 1st of January, 1801, and this day (24th April) are as follows :

23,990 quarts of savoury rice.

139,658 pounds of potatoes.

10,935 pounds of salted cod-fish.

24,104 red herrings.

314,529 corned herrings :—of these about half were sold for the supply of other charities.

It must be obvious that such a supply, chiefly of foreign produce, and not drawn from the ordinary markets of the metropolis, must have had a considerable effect, in checking the advance of price in butcher's meat, and bread, during the preceding season.

unknown to the subscribers; being resident in streets or courts entirely occupied by the poor, and being mostly engaged in occupations which do not afford them means of access to those who could recommend them as objects of relief. Many families, not having the means of procuring recommendations from the subscribers, applied at the soup-house, in consequence of an instruction given them; and the gentlemen concerned in the management of that trust, visited personally above an hundred families in the greatest distress; and, by enquiry, ascertained the description of the rest. In consequence of information so affecting, they thought it their duty to extend the relief of the charity, not merely to persons recommended by the subscribers, but also to the other distressed families, who had not the ordinary means of procuring tickets of recommendation.

Notwithstanding the time lost in attendance (an inconvenience which at first appeared to be indissolubly connected with this species of charity, but which in this soup-house* has since been in a

* If the poor are to attend several hours for their soup, the loss and inconvenience may be so great, as to more than balance the advantage of the charity. This was an evil daily increased, in West-street, by the eagerness of the poor. It was, however, remedied by Mr. Clarke; who has the care of the house, in an easy and effectual manner. The doors were opened and the serving was begun at 8 o'clock, instead of 10 o'clock, the former hour; so as to serve the applicants before there could be any increase of numbers. The poor now do hardly ever wait above ten minutes. Besides this, they are divided into classes; each of which has two days of attendance in a week; on which they are al-

great measure remedied) the number of adults and children, receiving relief at the soup-house, has amounted to about 14,000 individuals; who, at a time of scarcity, have thus been furnished with wholesome food, and with coals, at a reduced price.—Of the latter article, 250 chaldrons, in the course of this winter, have been laid in the vaults under the adjoining chapel, and have been sold in small quantities to the poor, four days in the week, at the hours most convenient to them, at one shilling a bushel.*

OBSERVATIONS.

The establishment of soup-houses has afforded unequivocal proof, if proof were wanting, that the prejudices of the industrious classes respecting diet, are not insuperable.

That, on a subject so important to the labourer as the daily supply of his family with the principal necessary of life, and the mode of preparing his

owed an increased quantity. The consequence is, that none of these poor people need lose above an hour a week, in obtaining their supply from the soup-house.

* Since the 1st of June, the Committee has been selling to the poor of that neighbourhood, bread made one-third of Indian meal, one-third of American flour, and one-third of rye; the price, eleven-pence the quartern loaf, being a little under the prime cost. The poor apply for it with great eagerness.—The herrings are all disposed of. Some pilchards remain, which the poor purchase at six a penny. The average of the sale is from 400 to 500 pilchards a day; which is enough to shew that they are not disliked, when people understand the proper mode of soaking and dressing them. 25th June, 1801.

food, he should feel disposed to abide by the decision of his forefathers, and to think the general practice the best, because it is the general practice; might reasonably be expected. He has not leisure, nor can he afford, to risk experiments to mend the meal, which he must procure from the sweat of his brow. It is not from his manufacturing skill that his mess can be improved, or from his architectural knowledge that his dwelling can be rendered more comfortable. While he labours for others, merchants, manufacturers, and philanthropists must plan for him. Visionary projects may often disgust him, and render him averse to innovation ; but he is seldom so ignorant of his true interest as not to adopt improvements, which have been fairly tried, and satisfactorily explained to him. In truth, the changes which have taken place in the domestic economy of the great mass of the people are not inconsiderable. In the middle of the seventeenth century, tea, sugar, and potatoes, and even wheaten bread (articles which now constitute a great part of the subsistence of the labouring classes) were almost wholly unknown to them ; and the experience of very modern times has shewn that good meat soup, fish of various kinds, and savoury rice, prepared at a fourth part of the expense of less palatable food, may be introduced at the tables of the poor. To familiarize them, however, to judicious and economical cookery at home,—wealth, science, and benevolence, must continue their exertions. The poor of the metropolis, more particularly, not

only want clear and explicit directions how their food may be prepared to the best advantage; but cheaper fuel than they can in general procure, and an improved kitchen apparatus. These, however, are objects, which do not fall within the scope of a soup establishment.

Various are the advantages which have resulted from institutions of this nature. They are usually opened in winter, a period of the year in which relief is most acceptable to the poor. They, probably, not only benefit the immediate applicants, but eventually others, to whom habit and local circumstances still render bread a principal article of subsistence. While the scarcity of corn continues, those who will make white bread the great article of their subsistence, will be benefited by those who can be satisfied with substitutes; and it is to be hoped that cheap and nutritious food may be thus brought into general use, by the extension of the knowledge of those culinary processes, which are necessary for preparing it.

It should, however, be remembered that soup-houses are extraordinary resources, only to be used in times of difficulty and distress; when there is a deficiency of food, or when the regular exertions of industry are impeded by an unforeseen pressure or calamity. In a well ordered state, the permanent welfare of the labouring classes must be the result of their own energies. To open the doors of a soup-house, as well in summer when work may easily be had, as in winter when it cannot,—in

years of plenty, as in years of scarcity,—is an indirect assurance to the labourer that the difference between the produce of his industry and the price of provisions shall always be equalized from the contributions of the opulent. Such attempts may be partially made ; but in their effects they must be often pernicious : as a general system, they are impracticable.

Soup-houses hitherto have been supported by liberal subscriptions, and managed at a moderate expense. The active zeal of the first promoters has, in most instances, rendered their administration pure and disinterested : but this active zeal has been excited, because the pressure of the present period is considered as extraordinary. In ordinary seasons the subscriptions would be less liberal, and the management less gratuitous, and perhaps, less disinterested.

A mixture of evil will blend itself with every human contrivance. In order to distribute food with order and economy, soup-houses require the personal attendance of applicants. Hence arises a loss of time, the most valuable property of the poor. He who carries his corn to a parish mill to be ground, instead of purchasing his flour from a neighbouring baker, and he who waits his turn to be supplied with a cheap meal from a soup-house, must deduct from the money price of the article thus bought, the time lost in purchasing it. The benefit in both cases may be considerable ; but in

both cases the loss of time must be calculated, and allowed as a draw-back.

It may be doubted whether the morals of the lower classes, particularly of children, are not injured, by their being brought together in great numbers. Whatever pains may be taken to exclude improper objects, it is almost impossible for a soup-house to relieve several hundred families, without often obliging the modest and industrious poor to associate with the idle and the profligate. An establishment of this kind must be content not to scrutinize the merits of applicants “too curiously;” it must forget “their vices in their woe,” and not refuse a meal to six starving children, because the father is idle, or the mother is dissolute.

It is a considerable objection to the permanency of soup-houses, that a charitable fund raised for supplying articles of subsistence, at reduced prices, to industrious persons who are not absolutely paupers, may lessen the distinction between independence and poverty; and gradually obliterate that spirit of independence, which is the chief motive for personal exertion.

It may be hoped that, in one respect, the relieving of the poor at a soup-house, may have the effect of introducing habits of cleanliness among them. If distinctions were made, not between those in bad or good clothes (for extreme poverty may supply an excuse for the former), but between

those who are neat in their persons and orderly in their behaviour, and those who are dirty and licentious, a soup house might furnish useful and practical lessons of decency and propriety.

The most prominent feature of these eleemosynary institutions is, that they afford assistance to a number of persons, at a very small expense. This is certainly no inconsiderable merit. The preceding remarks, however, are offered as a caution, that, tho' they are purely benevolent in intention, and in times of scarcity practically useful, they may, in ordinary periods, be not only unnecessary, but far more likely to injure, than to better, the condition of the poor.

24th April, 1801.

No. LXXXII.

Extract from an account of a Parish Library for the Poor. By Mrs. BERNARD.

AT Steeple Morden, in the county of Cambridge, the poor have been furnished with a circulating library of short tracts of a religious and moral nature. The idea had been originally suggested by a similar plan, useful in its way but not so peculiarly required, which has been adopted for the benefit of the children at the Foundling. The collection at Steeple Morden consists of the Cheap Repository tracts, and some few others of a similar kind ; and has already, even at the beginning, proved of considerable benefit to the parish. On Sunday afternoon, when the business of the Sunday school is over, Mrs. King, the lady who has founded the library, reads one of the tracts to the children, and to such of the parents as choose to attend. It is then made the subject of conversation ; and a few copies of the tract are lent to different children, who read it over again in the evening with their parents and neighbours ; and by these means spend their Sunday evening well, and with useful amusement. Copies of the same tract are afterwards lent out for the week, and generally go round the parish. On the Sunday following they are brought back, when they receive others, which have been first read over to

them in the same manner. Fifty-two tracts furnish the year's reading; and ten or twelve copies of each are sufficient for a moderate sized parish. It is very gratifying to contemplate the pleasure, the amusement, and other more material effects, which are produced in this parish by a measure perfectly simple and easy in itself, and executed at a trifling expense. It answers, in one respect, the end of the Sunday friendly societies at Winston and Auckland, and with more general extension to the different ages in the parish.

OBSERVATIONS.

There is hardly any thing which will be found more useful in promoting moral and religious improvement in a parish, than the supply of Sunday reading for the poor, to fill up those hours which are not occupied by wordly employment. Many cottagers have been induced to an habitual attendance on the ale-house, to the entire ruin of themselves and their families, not so much by natural disposition, as by want of occupation for the hours of cessation from labour. Perhaps the remark of dissipation being the consequence of want of employment, will apply with still more force to higher life; and it may be found that the disease is of a more incurable nature. But, among the poor, the remedy is neither expensive nor troublesome; and its application will be as beneficial to the benevolent dispenser of relief, as to the object for whose

benefit it is applied. I will therefore express my humble hope, that this plan, which has been also adopted by the same lady in two other parishes, and with the same success, may be imitated by those of our own sex, who feel gratefully the advantages they derive from the sources of religious and moral improvement, which are opened to them ; and are therefore anxious to express their gratitude, by communicating those advantages to every individual who is dependent upon them.

18th April, 1801.

No. LXXXIII.

*Extract from an account of a cottage at Shelford,
in the county of Cambridge. By the Rev. JAMES
PLUMPTREE.*

A LITTLE beyond the 51st mile-stone, on the road from London to Cambridge by Epping, where the road from Great Shelford to Cherry-hinton crosses it at right angles, and on the left hand side, stands a COTTAGE, which has always attracted my notice, in my walks between Hinxton and Cambridge. It is erected on what is called *Lord's Waste*; the whole occupying about 20 poles of ground. The house is built of clay, two stories high; with a very flat tiled roof, and projecting a good way over the walls, somewhat in the Swiss style. A chimney rises from the centre, with open work towards the top, from bricks being left out; and a smaller part is attached to the north end of the building, with another chimney at the end. The garden is surrounded with willows and poplars. Part of it is inclosed by a dead fence upon a bank, part by a mud wall, and with paling in front.

The singularity of its construction, and the neatness of its appearance, declare the architect to be no common genius. I had seen it rising by degrees to its present magnitude, and increasing in the beauty of its appearance: and I had once or

twice made inquiries about the house and the owner, but without success. At length, on the 27th of January last, passing by to Cambridge, I observed the owner and his son at work at it, drawing it over with a thin coat of clay. I was determined not to lose the opportunity ; and immediately accosted the man, who answered me in a very civil manner, and seemed pleased at having his house so noticed. Conversation increased confidence, and he soon gave me the history of himself and his house, to the following effect.

His name is JOSEPH AUSTIN ; and he is, by trade, a bricklayer. He has a brother and two half brothers, at Little Shelford ; all of whom follow the same trade. Before he built his house, having 4 children, he lived with his brother ; and, as he says, “*often used to come and look at this spot, and thought what a nice place it would be for building a house* ;—and, as soon as he got to sleep of a night, he always used to begin building.” At length he applied to the Manor-court and got a verbal leave for that purpose. Two of his neighbours, however, “moved by envy,” said, that if he began they would either pull, or burn it, down ; upon which he again applied to the Court the following year, and obtained a legal permission, with the assent of all the copyholders ; paying for the entry of his name on the Court Rolls, together with sixpence a year quit-rent.

In the mean time, he had been preparing what he calls his *bats*, during his leisure hours at home.

They are made of a white clay and straw beat together, in the form of large bricks, and not burnt, but dried in the sun: * they are 18 inches long, 12 wide, and 4 deep.—He had however, when he began building, only 14 shillings in pocket; and he had a wife and 4 children to maintain. This was but an indifferent property, wherewith to begin building a house. One of his masters, however, with whom he usually worked at harvest work, sold him an old cottage for 9 guineas; the amount of which he was to work out, and which he accordingly did in about 3 years. With the old materials, and with his *bats*, he set to work; and, on the 5th of June, 1791, being then about 42 years of age, he laid the first brick of his intended house. It was to consist of two rooms. The foundation, or what is called the *underpinning* and the chimneys are of brick, which he had from the old cottage. The underpinning is two feet high, in order to raise the clay bats a sufficient height from the ground; for were they once to get wet, they would soon be undermined, and give way. On this account it is, that the roof is made to project so much; to prevent the wet from falling, or splashing against the walls. Upon this foundation he set the bats, flat and length ways; cementing them with clay, and making a wall one foot thick. When he had raised his walls

* This is the manner in which the inside of dove cots is generally made, and the outside walls frequently constructed.

one story high, he was informed by the carpenter, that, upon farther examination, the timber from the old cottage would not serve for *so large* a place.

Not overcome by this disheartening difficulty, he determined to relinquish that part of his plan for the present ; and immediately set about constructing a smaller place, in the same manner, at the end of it, for the reception of his wife and family ; which he finished against Michaelmas ; so as for them to get in on the 3d day of October. He used to work at this, when his day's work was over ; and has often, as he told me, gone on by moonlight, and heard the clock strike twelve before he gave over ; and was up again at four the next morning ; having to go to Cambridge, nearly five miles, to his work, and to return in the evening. His brother occasionally assisted him. The other part of the building was then merely covered over with a few loads of *haum*, against a more favourable time. Five years after this he raised the walls another story, still covering it in with haum ; and, after the harvest, 1799, he had it tiled in with pantiles ; but he does not consider that the outside was completely finished, till he had coated it on January the 30th, 1801.

In this manner Joseph Anstин, with singular industry and economy, in the course of ten years, built himself a house, which he began with only 14 shillings in his pocket. During that time, his wife has had four children, and has lost as many ; four are now living ; the eldest 17, the youngest, 4 years old.

But tho' the outside is finished, much remains to be done within.* One room he lets to an old man and his wife, by which he makes a guinea a year; and he and his family still occupy only the small end of the house, and the chamber above it. He hopes next summer to get into the principal room, and to be able to get money to purchase casements to the windows,† and wood for flooring the two other rooms.

He has not kept a regular account of the money which the building has cost him; but he thinks it is about £50. in all. If he could have finished it once, it would have been a saving of at least £10 to him, on account of the advanced price of wood, and of all other materials; for he was obliged to buy new wood for the roofing of the large part. The tiling cost him about nine guineas. I asked him, if he did not think thatching would have come cheaper? but he says, no; as the roof must in that case have been made so much more upon the slant, and therefore must have taken up so much more wood, and so many more square of covering.

Another great saving would have been, if he had from the first discovered, that *clay* was to be had

* He has now a number of bats by him, with which he intends building a small barn or outhouse to put tubs, &c. out of the way.

† Since this was written, a friend, to whom I shewed the account, sent him money to pay for his windows, and gave me the pleasure of being the bearer of it.

near the spot. All his first materials were brought from a distance, at a considerable expense of labour and carriage.—The building cottages with *clay bats*, instead of lath and plaster with a coating of clay, produces a great saving of wood (as neither posts or studs are required, the beams resting solely upon the walls), and gives a greater thickness and strength to the walls, and makes the house warmer. Altho the room which he occupies, has two outer doors, a door to the staircase, and a window, I have been surprised to find, even on a cold day, how warm it was with a small quantity of firing.

His garden is no less the object of his attention than his house. It contains above a dozen apple-trees, and about half a dozen plumb-trees, besides gooseberries and currants. A nectarine, and a peach, and a grape vine, grow against the back of the house; and one of the fences in the garden is made of dwarf plumb-trees. Another fence is made of roses and sweet briars mixed with honey suckles, and the garden always produces a good crop of potatoes, parsnips, cabbages, and other vegetables.

But the most pleasing part of his history is, that he bears a very good character for honesty, sobriety, and regular attendance at church. His wife, tho subject to ill-health, is nevertheless a very industrious woman; she is always employed, and the children are brought up in habits of industry. One proof of this is, that the eldest boy,

uring his intervals from his father's trade, when
e cannot work in the garden, often employs him-
self in knitting.

OBSERVATIONS.

The character of Joseph Austin seems worthy of being held up as an example, not only to the poorer, but also to the higher classes in life ; as it exhibits an example of meritorious industry and economy, and shews how much a man may achieve by his own individual energy. It shews that it is not *money*, but *management*, which is the great requisite ; and that, “ where there is a *will* there is always a *way*,” and that an honest and commendable one, of accomplishing any good purpose. Without land of his own, without materials, and with only *fourteen shillings* in money, Joseph Austin has found the means, not merely of building a place to shelter his family in ; but of erecting an *elegant mansion* with a garden around it, which shall continue his, and his son's, and his son's son's, we will hope, for many generations.

It is true that he possessed one advantage in his trade, which few others in comparison can enjoy ; but I see no reason why *any clever man, of whatever trade*, may not erect a cottage upon similar principles. He might begin with a little, and get on by degrees, improving in his work ; till his *mansion*, if not in size, at least in workmanship and appearance, might rival this. There are few

spots which cannot furnish some kind of clay for the purpose, either near or within a short distance ; and the honest and industrious man, one should hope, would always meet, in his master, with a friend who would assist him on reasonable terms, or, what would be still better, for nothing.

I can scarce conceive to such a person a greater satisfaction, next to a good conscience, than that arising from the contemplation of so useful and excellent a work. It is his *castle* while he lives ; it is a *monument* at his death—nay during his life, to all passers by—of the extraordinary powers of a good character, of industry, and ingenuity—which may vie with the sculptured marbles of statesmen and warriors.

6th March, 1801.

No. LXXXIV.

Extract from an account of a female benefit club, at Tottenham. By Mrs. WAKEFIELD.

AT Tottenham High Cross, a friendly society for the benefit of women and children was established on the 22d of October, 1798, under the respectable patronage of a number of ladies, who promised to support it with personal attendance, as well as pecuniary assistance.

Combined with the main design of this institution are two other objects; viz. a fund for loans, to prevent the use of pawnbroker's shops, and a bank for the earnings of poor children.

The principal rules are as follow:—The honorary members pay five shillings on entrance, and twelve shillings annually.—The benefited members pay two shillings on entrance: they are divided into three classes, according to their age.—The first class, which consists of those between twenty and thirty, pay sixpence monthly.—Those of the second class are between thirty and forty, and pay nine-pence monthly.—Those of the third class are between forty and fifty, and pay one shilling monthly.

No one is to contribute after sixty.—From sixty-five to seventy, each member is to receive a pension of one shilling weekly; and from seventy to the end of their lives, two shillings weekly,

even should they be obliged to retire into a work-house.—In case of sickness, four shillings weekly are allowed for four months in one year, and two shillings afterwards. And if a member dies, after having subscribed six years, thirty shillings are allowed for the funeral.

The honorary members, thinking themselves entitled to risk part of their own contributions, have authorised the stewardesses, at their discretion, to lend small sums, from five shillings to thirty, to the benefited members on such occasions as they may approve. These loans are directed particularly to the enabling of them to purchase necessaries at the wholesale price: or to supply themselves with articles for sale, materials for work, a pig, or any other thing, likely to produce a profit. These loans are repaid in small monthly payments.

Children of either sex, or whatever age, whether belonging to a member or not, are permitted to bring any sum above one penny, to the monthly meeting of the stewardesses, to be laid up in the fund of the society; where their small earnings may accumulate in security, till wanted for an apprentice fee, cloathing on going to service, or some such important purpose; and in case of death, the sum laid up is returned to the parents of the child.

The business of the society is managed by six stewardesses and a treasurer, who meet monthly. Four of the stewardesses are chosen from the

honorary members, and two from the benefited members. These offices are filled in alphabetical order at an annual meeting of the whole society. It should be added that, great attention is paid to the moral character of those who are admitted members; and a notorious irregularity of conduct incurs expulsion.

OBSERVATIONS.

In the formation of all charitable institutions, the increase of virtue and happiness to society at large, should be considered as the great object of attainment, and the fundamental principle of action: an end which, it is presumed, the establishment in question is particularly adapted to promote, by the reciprocal advantages of rendering the affluent acquainted with the character, and the moral conduct, the wants, and the resources, of the indigent; whence they become better qualified to afford them judicious relief, and to distinguish between the deserving and the worthless.

The economy and the industry of the poor are encouraged by judicious loans, which enable them to buy articles of domestic consumption, and coals especially, on the most advantageous terms; or to provide materials for increasing their means of subsistence; as it is well known to those who are conversant with the affairs of the labouring classes, that it is much easier for them to spare a small sum at stated periods, than to lay down what is sufficient for either purpose at once.

Tho the children receive no addition to the pittance they deposit in the fund, yet it answers several purposes.—It stimulates them to earn and to save that, which would probably be idly spent, as of too small importance for care ; it often encourages their parents to lay by a little store for them, which they would not have thought of doing, had they not been invited by this opportunity of placing it in safety. It habituates the children to industry, frugality, and foresight ; and, by introducing them to notice, it teaches them the value of character, and of the esteem of those who, by the dispensation of providence, are placed above them ; and, in many instances, it may supply a resource, when it is essentially requisite.

The success has already exceeded expectation. Above sixty children bring their little treasure monthly ; the benefited members repay their loans with great regularity : and there is a visible emulation to establish a good character by respectable conduct, and by a regard to propriety on the part of the poor ; whilst kind attention, and active sympathy, are exerted on the part of the opulent.

12th April, 1801.

No. LXXXV.

Extract from an account of the mode of parochial relief at, and near, Wendover. By the Rev. JOSEPH SMITH.

AT Wendover, Bucks, and in its neighbourhood, the calculation of the relief of the poor has been made on the presumed and *supposed* earnings of the labourer, and not on the actual amount of what he does actually acquire by industry and exertion. As the principle, on which this has been grounded, is the same as that adopted by the farmers at Whelford, I should not have made it the subject of a communication, except to notice two or three variations, which may, perhaps, not be undeserving of attention ; and as an introduction to some observations on the present situation of the country poor, which I have arranged at the request of a member of the committee.

The object was to render the overseer's duty as easy as circumstances would admit, and to make the labourers contented under the present pressure of the times, by giving them the power of exerting every act of superior industry to their own advantage. The sum of nine shillings per week has been adopted as an average of earnings ; to be increased out of the poor's-rate to such a sum, as

will purchase every week, for the cottager, his wife, and every child under 10 years of age, a half-peck loaf each. If they can earn more, we do not inquire the amount; but leave it to them, as an encouragement of industry. If they are indolent, and earn less, it is their own loss; as is the case of those, who throw themselves on the parish for work, and are allowed only eight shillings a week.

No allowance is, in general, made for children above 10 years of age; they having a regular supply of work, and being deemed capable of earning their own maintenance. Single women and widows unincumbered with any family, are also presumed to be able to earn their own subsistence by lace-making, and therefore are also excluded from the allowance; except in cases of sickness or old age, or where they can shew that they have not the benefit of those means of supply. These, however, are only shades of difference, depending on the peculiar supply of occupation in a country, or upon the particular regulations of a place. Wherever the attention of the parish, or local circumstances, afford a supply of work to women, children, or to any other class of applicants, it would be a dangerous experiment to permit them to *confess idleness*, and to plead indisposition to avail themselves of their means of subsistence; and therefore to allow them to be classed among *paupers receiving relief*.

OBSERVATIONS.

It is impossible for those who reside at a distance from the metropolis, and act as magistrates in an agricultural country, not to extend their reflections from the present scarcity and temporary pressure, to consequences which may be still more afflictive, and of longer duration ; and which, unless removed by exertions beyond the power of mere parochial relief, may be augmented and continued, as a destructive inheritance attached to the landed property ;—the consequence of that parochial relief, which, in obedience to the laws, the landed property now affords the labourer, through the medium of the tenantry, to enable him to meet the great advance in price of every necessary of life.

In most parishes this has been injudiciously calculated to make up with their actual earnings, whatever they might be, a certain allowance for each in family ; so that they, who have earned least by their own hands, have received most from the parish. A very little consideration will convince any one, that, by such a measure, all spur to industry, and all energy to contend with difficulty, must be entirely destroyed. For, when the habit is acquired of applying to the parish, and the daily earnings of the labourer, without additional resources, are inadequate to the support of his family, no inducement is left for him to exert his

best abilities and industry. If the amount is to be the same in all cases, how can it be expected that they will toil, merely to lessen the parish rates? The lamentable fact is, that an indolent habit has been thus superinduced, and labourers do not exert themselves as they did formerly. Their spirit is so broken down by circumstances, that they grow reconciled to the idea of being paupers, and relying on parish relief, in preference to the more valuable and more honourable exertions of their own industry. The alarming consequence of this is, that the poor's-rates through the country have increased, and are increasing, to a degree that may well excite the fears of all, who are interested in the fate of the landed property. The narrow policy of the farmer, operates to augment the evil. The rates, at present, are paid by the occupier: he feels the frequent demand of the overseer, without reflecting upon the increased price which he receives for his commodity at market; and the overseers, in general, being unprovided with other work for the labourers who apply for employment, send them to the farmer. He imagines that he gains some remuneration for his extra rates, by receiving the labourer into his yard from the overseer at an under price; the deficiency being to be made up out of the rates of the parish. But labourers, so employed, never work cheerfully or well. The farmer scarcely ever has more labour performed than he actually pays for; and the money contri-

buted out of the rates is all expended, not only without any return of labour, but with the melancholy consequence of having materially contributed to the extinction of honest industry, and laudable exertion.

In some parishes in my neighbourhood, the magistrate has been able to introduce a better regulation ; that of assuming an average price of labour, as a standard from which parochial relief, shall be calculated ; allowing the labourer to employ his extra hours, or extra labour in task-work, for his own exclusive advantage. This, however, is by no means generally adopted ; nor, if it were, would it be sufficient to correct the evil of the extinction of that character of independence, which the English labourer did once so pre-eminently possess, and by which the community was so greatly benefited. There is too much reason to fear, that without great exertions from the *land-owners* to restore the labourer to his former honourable state, either by assisting him with a cow and ground to keep her, or by some other effectual incitement to exertion and industry, *they will not remain STATIONARY at their present point of deterioration.* Unless they improve, they will become worse. Their inclination to indolence, and to those vices which are connected with it, will increase. Their demands upon their respective parishes will become more urgent : and the poor's-rates will so increase, that tenants will no longer be able to bear the expenses attendant

upon the occupation of their farms. The proprietors may then discover, not only the difficulty and disadvantage of occupying their lands themselves, but that, in a parish incumbered with paupers, the land may prove insufficient to the maintenance of the parochial poor.

16th April, 1801.

No. LXXXVI.

Extract from an Account of the Management of the Poor, in the Parish of Shipton Moyne, in the County of Gloucester. By THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.

ON the 27th of February, 1801, a vestry was called in the parish of Shipton Moyne, to consider of regulations for the better management of the poor. Their first object was to provide immediate relief, in such a way as to furnish employment, and to encourage industry. For this purpose it was agreed that, upon any parishioner applying for relief, an account should be taken of the age and occupation of each individual of the family, and an estimate should be made of what they were able to earn ; and then, if they could prove *that they had earned to that amount*, they should receive such relief as would make up the amount of a certain provision, fixed by their rules, for the weekly support of each individual in family ; no extra earnings, nor any superior industry, being ever admitted as a ground of deduction from the calculated amount of relief. In addition to this provision, the poor, in case of sickness and of inability to provide medical relief for themselves, were to be allowed whatever the parish surgeon (with the privity of the overseer) should deem proper for them.

The general principle of relief being thus established, the next point was to secure them a regular supply of *employment*. For the occupation of the men, Mr. Estcourt (who has the honour of being the active promoter of these regulations) has agreed to furnish land for raising potatoes ; the produce of which is hereafter to be sold, at a reasonable price, to the poor of the parish. In the cultivation of this ground, every poor man wanting work is to be employed in task-work, or as shall be most useful to him.—For the women and children, the work-house, by *a most extraordinary and incredible metamorphosis*, is converted into A REAL HOUSE OF INDUSTRY ; and all the women and children of that parish, who are clean and decent in their persons and orderly in their behaviour, are admitted to work in the house (now under the care of an assistant overseer, whose character and conduct have been well approved) during the day-time ; they finding their own provisions, * and receiving the whole amount of their earnings, without any deduction whatsoever. The work-rooms (with exception of the time of meals and of cleaning the rooms) are open from six to six in summer, and in winter, from seven to seven : those parents who do not send their children to school, or employ them

* A cheap ordinary for the children, and indeed for adults also, where they might get their dinners, *if they wished it*, might be very useful in this instance ; to be paid for by a weekly deduction from their earnings. See the Report, No. XXXIII.

better elsewhere, being entirely excluded from all parochial relief.

In order to encourage attention to their religious duties, it has also been agreed, that every poor parishioner who has two or more children at home, and who in the ensuing year shall regularly attend the morning service, decent and clean in person, and being in church before the beginning of the prayers, shall have an annual allowance of clothing; —for each man, to the value of 20s.; for each woman, of 15s.; and for each boy or girl, of 10s.; a deduction of 6d. being made for each absence from church, unless occasioned by severe illness.

To promote the essential virtue of cleanliness, another encouragement has been proposed: that every poor parishioner, who shall annually whitewash his house in the month of September (being supplied with lime and brushes) and shall have the floors washed clean with water every Saturday in the winter months, shall on every such Saturday in January, February, and March, receive a donation of three pecks of coals. But no such donation of clothing or fuel is to be given to a parishioner, in case, during the preceding year, any member of his family shall have been convicted of any crime, subjecting him or her to fine, whipping, or imprisonment; unless satisfactory information shall be given, that the rest of the family were not privy, or concerned; but had used all proper means to prevent the same.

There is, moreover, a regulation,* that the village shop, which had been established in the preceding year for selling the most necessary articles to the poor at prime cost, shall be continued ; and a list of the articles, and the prices, fixed up every week in a conspicuous part of the shop, and of the workrooms of the house of industry.

In addition to these, there were added, not only individual encouragement and reward on the part of the rich, but also the supply of potatoe gardens for the benefit of the poor. For the first purpose, a liberal subscription was raised by the principal inhabitants ; each subscriber being yearly or half yearly, at his or her option, to distribute, or to direct the distribution of, his or her own subscription publicly after divine service ; the distribution being to be *impartially* made with a view to their regular attendance on divine worship,—their honesty, sobriety, decency, and industry,—their affectionate conduct to their relations and neighbours in sickness or infirmity,—the cleanliness of their cottages,—their attention to the morals, health, and welfare of their children,—and their frugality and domestic management, in making the best use of their means of life. The period of probation is to be for one year, from the 1st of October, 1801 ; and all candidates for the rewards are required to enter their names, in the form directed, one month, at least, before the time.

* These regulations have been printed, and are to be had at Hatchard's.

The mode in which Mr. Estcourt has provided for his cottager's potatoe grounds is also deserving of attention. He has appropriated for this purpose, a field called *North Leas*; which has been laid out in lots of a quarter of an acre each; the cottagers being each allowed one lot, or two, according to their families, and to their ability and inclination to cultivate it to advantage. The landlord pays the tithes and taxes; manures the land, finds seed-potatoes, and allows the labourer 6d. a perch for his family's subsistence, while he is cultivating the land. For this benefit, the tenant pays the rent of 15*s.* every quarter of an acre; and undertakes to cultivate the ground, according to his landlord's regulations. He also agrees (in case the money advanced him, together with his rent, is not repaid before the crop is ready* to be taken up) half of the crop shall be set apart to be sold at Christmas, to secure the rent and money advanced him; the cottager receiving the overplus, and retaining the other moiety. And, in case the cottager neglects the cultivation of his land, the landlord may take possession, paying him the full value of his labour thereon.

* This time has a reference to the coming in of harvest-work; a period when the cottager, if ever, would be able to make good his payment.

OBSERVATIONS.

Of all the efforts which have been made for the benefit of the English cottager, no one seems to have been better suited to his present *distempered* condition,—affected as it has been by the high price* of every necessary article of life,—than the regulations of the parish of Shipton Moyne.—To produce *a state of convalescence* among the poor,—to restore health, improve morals, and renew strength,—so as to prepare the English labourer at this period to resume his proper and fitting situation

* For the high price of provisions, two remedies have been proposed,—both INFALLIBLE SPECIFICS:—the first a *maximum* in the price of food, the second a *minimum* in the wages of labour.—As to the first, doubts may exist. Much indeed has passed in the preceding winter, to induce an opinion that such a regulation would neither be unjust nor injurious.—But with respect to the second remedy—a *parliamentary increase of the wages of labour to a fixed sum, to be regulated by the CURRENT PRICE OF CORN*,—I would ask the proposer three questions:—1st. If, by increase of wages, the labourer is enabled and induced to use as much wheat in a year of *scarcity*, as in a year of *plenty*, the general stock must not be exhausted; and FAMINE, the inevitable consequence?—2d. If a certain sum (say 1s. 6d. a day) is to be the amount of the labourer's wages when wheat is 5s. a bushel, and it follows that when 20s. is the price of a bushel of wheat, 6s. must be the lowest wages of a day's labour, the manufacturer (looking to the sale of his commodity) could afford to employ his men? and, if he could not, whether they must not all be dismissed, and resort as PAUPERS to the parish?—3d. Whether the farmer could afford to till the ground, when 6s. a day are the *statute wages* of labour, below which a poor man is not permitted to work? and (if the raising of wheat could not answer on those terms) whether the quantity of corn land would not diminish, and the price of food and of labour increase, until

in society, the measures, adopted in this instance, appear to be peculiarly well chosen.

The first is,—that the relief to be afforded to him, on account of a general pressure to which his present means of life are unequal, shall be so supplied as to increase *the scale of his domestic comfort* in proportion to *the tone of his industry*; so that if he and his family have a superior degree of exertion, and of patient application, they shall possess more means of enjoyment at present, and greater store of provision in future, than their less provident and active neighbours. Without this principle, parish relief becomes a public and national premium, for the encouragement of idleness and vice.

—It declares to the industrious, “you have laboured hard, *you have deserved much; you shall therefore receive little.*”—To the idle it says, “you have made no exertion; *you deserve nothing;*” “—*we will therefore give you much.* We will make your condition equal, in all respects, to that of the honest and industrious: we will enquire what *you* have not earned, and what *they* have earned; and in addition to what we allow them,

famine should have raised its standard in the country, and by DEPOPULATION have made a diminished cultivation adequate to the ordinary demand of food?—Let the cottager possess his cow, his pig, and his potatoe garden;—and, if the price of provisions should rise, he will have some stock in hand; he will also have an extra price on the sale of his pork, his potatoes, his butter, and cheese; and, tho' he may suffer in common with others, yet he will not suffer more by the scarcity than his fellow subjects.

" we will, as THE HONOURABLE REWARD OF
" YOUR IDLENESS, give you the difference."

The liberal and provident attention which is paid to the poor of Shipton Moyne, in case of sickness, is also very deserving of praise and imitation: but still more attention is due to the exemplary remedy, which Mr. Estcourt has provided for the want of *occupation* for the poor. Among the sources of the sufferings to which the industrious cottager's family is liable, and among the causes of increase in parochial rates, there is hardly any thing which has more operated, than the failure of healthy and equitable employment for the poor; particularly for women and children, and in the winter season. The ingenious and complicated machinery of spinning mills has almost annihilated the benefit, which the cottager's family has hitherto derived from the spinning-wheel: lace-making is an unhealthy occupation; and depends for its supply, on the disease and caprice of fashion, and not on the necessity of man; and in our present advanced state of society, all profit of employment, the articles of which are to go to the public for sale, is diminished by the gains of the intervening speculator. To provide therefore healthful employment, not only for every labouring man, but for every woman and child in the parish, to supply them with motives and means of exertion, and to give them ALL THE BENEFIT OF THEIR LABOUR, is what wisdom and benevolence should always do:—it is to assist the poor

and helpless in their means of life, and at the same time to render them useful to society and to themselves.

Earnest calls are at present required from Christian charity, to invite the poor into places of public worship : and if any are so unfortunate as, by the pernicious shade of bad example, to have blighted the religious improvement of the poor, let them, as an act of useful penitence, endeavour now to promote their piety and virtue.—In no way can they so effectually do it, as by inducing confirmed and regular habits of attendance on *divine worship* : the mode adopted at Shipton Moyne will serve them for an example ; which while they follow, they will promote, at the same time, the temporal comfort, and eternal happiness, of their indigent neighbours.

Connected with religious and moral purity, and conducive to it, is *personal cleanliness*. The Cork society has set the example of rewards for this virtue ; and the parish of Shipton Moyne has given an *English* example of the mode, in which it may be effectually encouraged. At the same time, the *village shop*, a charity which has been so beneficially introduced and continued by the Bishop of Durham, and individual *rewards* for good conduct, holding up every species of virtue and merit as an object of emulation and ambition, have made part of the arranged system for promoting the good conduct and welfare of the poor in Shipton Moyne.

Before I conclude, I must say a few words on the subject of the *potatoe gardens for the poor*;* which make so peculiar and distinguished a part of the advantages of the cottager in this parish.—I shall not observe upon the increase it would make in the food of the nation in a year of scarcity; nor attempt to shew by calculation, that if only four such additional acres were so cultivated in each of the ten thousand parishes of England, the addition of food at the average calculation of 200 bushels per acre, would be TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND

* A gentleman on the Cotswold hills, in Gloucestershire, adopted in 1790, the following mode of encouraging the culture of potatoes, and has since continued it, having found it very useful to his labourers and poor neighbours.—His turnip fallow usually consists of about twenty or twenty-five acres; which is a larger quantity than he can manure in any one season. He allots in the spring a certain portion of his fallow for the cultivation of potatoes for the poor: his team carries to the field the dung which the cottager has collected in the course of the year; and then, each cottager sets for himself a quantity of potatoes, sufficient for the use of his family; some a chain, some less. He hoes them, and earths them up at his vacant hours, and when the season arrives for digging them up, the landlord's waggon carries home for them the crop of each individual.—By these means, the poor man is enabled to lay in a stock of that most valuable root for winter use; and to reserve his own garden for other vegetables. The farmer is not injured by this appropriation of part of his unproductive fallow;—for, in the following season, he will have at least an equal, if not a superior crop of corn from the potatoe land, than from the barley land. For several years past, the farmers in that parish have adopted the same plan for their respective labourers. It is adviseable, after the potatoes are dug up, to give the land one ploughing before Christmas.—*Communicated to the Bishop of Durham by the Reverend Mr. Travel, 16th May, 1801.*

TONS of potatoes, delivered without cost or interference, immediately into the cottage of the labourer. The plan itself is new ; and it has the singular merit of offering to industry, such means of occupation, as even extreme poverty cannot withhold her from accepting. It is a prize lottery without blanks. It gives scope to the energy of the poor, and prospect of future advantage, without diminution in their existing means of life. On this account, at the present moment, when peculiar circumstances have greatly depressed the poor, and have narrowed their means of thriving, it has a particular claim to our attention ; calculated as it is, with the other measures adopted at Shipton Moyne, to restore the spirit of the cottager, and to renew his means of subsistence and independence ; so as to prevent an enormous rise in our poor's rates, and a fatal and incorrigible increase in the number of paupers in this kingdom.

27th April, 1801.

No. LXXXVII.

Extract from an account of the manner in which the poor have been supplied with rice and beef at St. Albans. By the Countess Dowager SPENCER.

I NEVER have found any supply of food for the poor of so much use, and give such thorough satisfaction, as that which I have lately established at St. Alban's. It is a mode which will not only be of use in times of scarcity, but will be very beneficial every winter when labour is scarce, and the weather severe.—My plan is merely selling every week, at a low price, rice, and very excellent salt beef to labourers, in proportion to their families.—This is only meant to afford such a supply as shall enable the man's labour, or the parish allowance, with the addition of this cheap and wholesome food, to support their families in the dead time of the year.—The proportions I have allowed, are as follows: the rice being sold at 3d. per pound, and the beef at 4d.

1st Class. large families with 4, 5, or 6 children	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2 \text{ lb. of rice } 6d. \\ 1\frac{1}{2} \text{ lb. of beef } 6d. \end{array} \right\}$	1s. per week
2d Class. Families with only 2, or 3 children	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1\frac{1}{2} \text{ lb. of rice } 4\frac{1}{2}d. \\ 1 \text{ lb. of beef } 4d. \end{array} \right\}$	$8\frac{1}{2}d.$ ditto.
3d Class. A man and woman or one child	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ lb. of rice } 3d. \\ \frac{1}{2} \text{ lb. of beef } 2d. \end{array} \right\}$	5d. ditto.
4th Class. A single person	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{2} \text{ lb. of rice } 1\frac{1}{2}d. \\ \frac{1}{2} \text{ lb. of beef } 2d. \end{array} \right\}$	$3\frac{1}{2}d.$ ditto.

The above is what it costs the poor; but to engage people to subscribe (as I could not supply

the whole myself) I have made out a plan, by which subscribers may have tickets at 2d. a pound for the rice, and 2d. a pound for the beef. Thus, if any subscriber wishes to assist any poor family, it will cost them as follows :

	lb.	Per week.	For 6 weeks.	For 12 weeks.	For 18 weeks.
1st Class,	2 lb. of rice 4d. 1½ lb. of beef 3d.	7d.	3s. 6d.	7s.	10s. 6d.
2nd Class,	1½ lb. of rice 3d. 1½ lb. of beef 2d.	5	2 6	5	7 6
3rd Class,	1 lb. of rice 2d. ½ lb. of beef 1d.	3	1 6	3	4 6
4th Class,	½ lb. of rice 1d. ½ lb. of beef 1d.	2	1 0	2	3 0

I have fixed upon eighteen weeks for the period of sale, stopping a couple of weeks between each six weeks. This is intended to make the poor feel the advantage which they derive from this supply, and to prevent their growing tired of it. It will likewise prolong the time, till the hay harvest may supply them all with employment, and many vegetables will be coming in.

I pay a woman a farthing a pound for measuring out the rice, and a halfpenny a pound for cutting and weighing the beef ; but this is more than is necessary. If I had been provident, and had bought the rice cheap, the expense would have been trifling. As it is, I am a loser of above a penny in the pound, when the subscribers have paid their 2d. and the poor their 3d. but that regards only myself. Upon the beef there will likewise be some loss, on account of the bones ; of these I

make soup, which might be sold to supply that loss. We have relieved, in this way, between eight and nine hundred families in the town and its environs ; which made it necessary, in order to avoid confusion, that they should come on stated days :—the first class, is therefore appointed on Mondays ; the second, on Tuesdays ; the third, on Wednesdays ; and the fourth, on Thursdays. And as the request for these tickets has extended to five, six, and seven miles distant, all which demands cannot be answered, I generally give the poor people who have come so far an occasional ticket for that one day only, that they may not be entirely disappointed.

I must observe that, besides the expressions of thankfulness from all without exception who have partaken of this charity, several women have been to tell me, that the excellence of the food has restored health and strength to their families : one woman yesterday informed me, that she and her husband had been, from mere poverty, got into so low and weak a state of health, as to be scarcely able to earn any thing ; but that the continuance of this food, for some weeks together, had quite set them up again.

OBSERVATIONS.

It is, at the present moment, very important to alleviate the distresses of the poor. I am therefore anxious to extend the knowledge of this plan as

nuch as I can. It certainly is less expensive to he donor, and more acceptable to the receiver, han any other which I have ever tried. If any ne was to give a large family half a guinea, or a oor widow three shillings, they would not be urprised at hearing that, in less than a month, the noney was gone: while the same sum, by this eans, will last from the middle of January to the middle of June.

16th Feb. 1801.

No. LXXXVIII.

Extract from an account of an establishment for the benefit of the poor, in the city and suburbs of Edinburgh. By THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.

ON the 22d of January last, there was opened at Edinburgh, an house for the employment and relief of the poor of that place. Three persons, who had been apprehended while they were begging, were that day sent into the house. Previous notice had been given that mendicity would no longer be permitted in that city ; there being both employment, and the means of subsistence, in the house, for every beggar and destitute person who was disposed to work. They were also informed, that they would receive the full amount of their earnings, with such additional gratuitous assistance, as might, in the whole be equal to their decent maintenance.

From the 22d of January, 1801, to the 16th of March,* ninety persons of different ages were admitted into the house. Of these, few, comparatively speaking, were of the ordinary class of beggars : they, in general, fled upon the alarm ; and retired to quieter situations, in London and other municipalities, where similar measures of prudential charity have not been adopted. Of those distressed persons, who have been admitted into

* The number has since been considerably increased.

the house, almost all have been received on their own application ; many of them widows advanced in life, whom the high price of provisions, and the want of occupation, had compelled to dispose of the greater part of their furniture and clothes, for immediate subsistence ;—or young women, who, with characters apparently unimpeached, were exposed to a course of pilfering and prostitution.

It was fixed that they should have *the whole produce of their earnings* ; besides this they receive gratis, a cheap dinner, and two-pence a day each in money. The pecuniary allowance has, for the present, been rendered expedient by the peculiar circumstances of the times, the high price of food, and the state of weakness and indigence to which the poor are reduced. The continuance of that part of the relief, it is to be hoped, will not be universally necessary.

Their earnings are small :—but it is not a small object to be attained, that such a class of persons should be virtuously, and industriously employed ; that they should be *earning something*, and acquiring the habit and skill to earn more.—They express very generally, and very strongly, their gratitude for the advantages, which they derive from the charity ; and look forward to its continuance, with eager and solicitous expectation. Only two of them have merited serious reprehension ; and they are now dismissed the house, to the advantage, and apparent satisfaction of the rest.—Of the ninety

persons admitted, seventy-four have been employed in spinning flax,—three in spinning hemp,—and one in spinning wool: all of these have been furnished by the manufacturer with the raw materials, and are paid by him according to the usual rates, for the quantity they respectively spin.—Besides these, six have been employed in making lace, three in knitting stockings, two in reeling yarn, and assisting in the house, and one (a joiner with five children in great distress for want of work) in mending the spinning-wheels, and in making a variety of little articles for sale.

To occupation, and the means of subsistence, the directors of this excellent charity have added medical advice and aid. Of this department, an eminent physician, Dr. William Farquharson, has taken the direction; the institution being put to no other expense, than that of the wholesale price of the medicines which the poor may require.

The establishment is supported by voluntary contributions, not only of money, but of clothing, and spinning wheels, supplied by public bodies at Edinburgh, as well as by individuals. In consequence of a report made by the Rev. Dr. Baird, (PRINCIPAL OF THE UNIVERSITY AT EDINBURGH, and a most active conductor of the charity) the Society lately established at Edinburgh, “for encouraging the industry and increasing the comforts of the poor,” has taken this charity under its peculiar patronage and administration, and has added considerably to its funds, as the

Society's first practical establishment, for the benefit of the poor, in the city and suburbs of Edinburgh.

OBSERVATIONS.

I cannot resist this opportunity of congratulating our studious men, and particularly the heads of our seminaries of learning, on the delightful example which has been afforded them by the Principal of the learned university of Edinburgh. The leading and strenuous part, which he has successfully taken in the conduct of this excellent institution for encouraging the industry and increasing the comforts of the poor in the city of Edinburgh, supplies the most gratifying evidence, that an elevated situation in literature, and the direction of philosophical studies, are compatible with a life of benevolent and extensive utility ; and that a strict performance of every duty to the poor, and an active part in every exertion for their improvement and benefit, may afford ornament and relief to the labours of science, and diffuse lustre over the shades of academic retirement.

There have existed misers in *science*, as well as in *wealth* ;—men, who have considered the treasures of learning, as talents to be immured within the cells of a quadrangle, or to be preserved in a napkin, exempt from the danger of being used and applied for the advantage of mankind. Of course, I refer to former ages, and to distant countries, where science and philanthropy have not gone

hand in hand.—Should there, however, exist in the British Isles, any learned man who is not quite awake to all his relative duties, the stimulus to action must be supplied, not by my weak pen, but by his superior knowledge of his own duty, and of the inestimable services which his talents do enable him to perform for the benefit and improvement of the poor.

It is certainly a disgrace to our metropolis, that with all our charitable establishments, no adequate provision has yet been made to prevent mendicity in London; but that our funds of charity are to be wasted on the indolent and drunken beggar, while modest indigence is often neglected and forgotten.—When the means of occupation, and the inducements to industry and exertion, are provided in London, there will be no further occasion for *vagrant passes, and for orders of removal.* The idle and the profligate beggars will soon find that the air of the metropolis does not suit them; and will retire, as they have done from Edinburgh, to other more congenial climates, where liberal encouragement continues to be offered to idleness and profligacy.

It is no small merit in the Edinburgh establishment, that they have adopted the principle, so strongly recommended by Count Rumford, of giving the poor the **WHOLE ENTIRE** of their earnings, and **ALL** the benefit of their industry. Those earnings, it is true, are inconsiderable, and at the present period inadequate to their support; and,

indeed, whenever an establishment of this kind shall be formed in London, it is probable that the produce of the industry of the poor, in the commencement at least, will be comparatively small. But if we could suppose only one half of the beggars of London to be usefully employed (the other half, having retired to other cities, where *speculative idleness* is not persecuted) the gain to the public in the positive produce* of labourer, in the examples of industry, and in the comparative improvement of morals, would be of an importance beyond all calculation.

I am aware that I shall be told that the situation, the magnitude, and the circumstances, of Edinburgh and London are very different. In like manner if I urge the example of Munich, I am answered, that "the scale is small,—the difficulties less;—with the military under his orders, "and the springs of government at command, the "favourite minister of a despotic prince might do "much:"—So, if I cite what Mr. Voght has done at Hamburgh,—Mr. Venn, at Clapham;—what Lord Winchilsea, at Burley,—Mr. Conyers, at Epping,—Mr. Estcourt, at Shipton Moyne,—or

* Few persons are fully aware of the extent of the loss to the public by a certain number of persons being unemployed—The following paper was very lately distributed with good effect among the riotous colliers at Bristol.—
"Kingswood, April 11, 1801.—The LOSS to every IDLE MAN, for one day's work, is 2s.; one week's ditto, 12s.; and if five hundred men do not work for a week, their wives and children will be deprived, of the enormous sum of THREE HUNDRED POUNDS!"

Mr. Gilpin, at Boldre ;—still I am told, these are all peculiar cases, exempt from those circumstances, which are ever ready to prevent any thing of that kind being attempted by the objector.—I admit that the magnitude of Edinburgh is less, the education and domestic habits of the poor are better, and that they are free from the embarrassments attending our complicated system of poor laws : but I must observe that those circumstances in London, which enhance the difficulty, do also increase the necessity of the measure ; and that if we are incumbered by poor laws, we may receive from them funds more than adequate to the perfecting and continuing of such a reform ; as there can be little doubt that half the money which is now applied in our metropolis in making the poor helpless and idle, would be sufficient for the encouragement of industry and for the relief of poverty, to the extent that political wisdom and general philanthropy would require ; even if we can suppose that the benevolence of individuals would not afford any pecuniary supplies ; and that Bridewell, and some other charities originally intended to have been subservient to this general object, shall remain for ever in their present condition.

In short, when we consider the degree of distress * which such an establishment may alleviate,

* This paragraph is nearly a transcript of a part of PRINCIPAL BAIRD's report. The whole of this account, indeed, has been taken from that report, which I have been favoured with by my friend, Mr. COLQUHOUN. I see

the comfort it may bestow, the industry it may promote, the productive labour it may create, the bad habits it may amend, the good habits it may form, the improvement in skill and dexterity of working it may produce, the benefit to be done to the metropolis by diminishing the number of beggars at the present and by keeping down the poor rates in future and the probable advantages to the country from such an example leading to the erection of similar establishments in other parts of the kingdom,—I flatter myself we shall all speedily unite in measures, for forming an institution TO PROVIDE FOR THE BEGGARS OF LONDON, upon principles similar to those which have been adopted with such success and effect at Edinburgh.

21st May, 1801.

with great pleasure in it a promise of a further and fuller account from Dr. Baird, of the progress and effects of this charity.

THE
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FOR
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AND
INCREASING THE COMFORTS
OF THE POOR.

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1802.

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No. LXXXIX.

Extract from an account of a Sunday friendly Society, for the aged poor, at Bishop Auckland.
By WILLIAM PRICE, Esq.

THE Sunday friendly society for the aged poor, at Bishop Auckland, in the county and diocese of Durham, was established on the 2d day of September 1798; it consists of six aged women, thirteen aged men, and one blind man. The anniversary meeting, for the distribution of their funds, is on Christmas day: their object, the observance of the Sabbath, the study of the Scriptures, and the promotion of frugality and good neighbourhood. They make a point of attending church regularly,—of partaking of the sacrament, whenever administered,—of discountenancing improper pastimes on Sunday,—and, as far as may be, of dissuading others from the profanation of that sacred day.

They meet every Sunday evening, assisted by the Clergyman of the Parish, who reads to them some portion and exposition of the Scriptures. They make a weekly contribution out of their earnings, to accumulate till the end of the year; allotting and setting apart one-tenth of it, as a charitable fund for the relief of their indigent neighbours, who are not members of the Society. They also * engage themselves to do every thing they can,

* This engagement will probably remind the reader of an account of the primitive Christians, in which no one

to promote good will, good neighbourhood, and Christian charity, one among another.

By their rules, any inhabitant of Bishop Auckland, who is sixty years of age, or upwards, may be a member of the Society. Their subscriptions are generally one penny a week :—if under seventy, the member is intitled, at Christmas, to receive *double* his subscription ; being the amount of what he has contributed, and as much more: if between seventy and eighty, threefold ; if between eighty and ninety, fourfold ; and so progressively. Blind persons are admissible at any age. If any member dies within the year, his relatives are intitled to a proportional benefit: but in case of absence from church, except on account of sickness, or some unavoidable impediment, the absentee forfeits his benefit upon the subscription of that week.

The fund for the support of this society, is contributed by the Bishop ; who also supplies them with a room for their meetings, and with a Sunday dinner. It has now subsisted for three years ; during which period, seven of their members have

will suspect the author of indulging his *natural* disposition to *panegyric*.—“They met” (says Pliny in his letter to the Emperor Trajan) “on a certain stated day, before it was “light; and addressed themselves in a form of prayer to “Christ, as to some God ; *binding themselves* by a solemn “oath, not for the purposes of any wicked design, but never “to commit any fraud, theft, or adultery ; never to falsify their “word, nor deny a trust when they should be called upon to deli-“ver it up.”—Melimoth’s Pliny. Book x. Letter 97.— These are the *crimes*, which the *mild* Pliny only punished, when confessed ; allowing the accused to save themselves by falsehood and apostacy ; and to receive pardon, upon their worshipping the statue of the Emperor, and reviling the name of Christ their Redeemer.

exchanged this life for a better; and have felt the inestimable comfort of having their path to the grave smoothed, and their dying hour cheared and illumined, by that supply of religious consolation, which they have derived from the meetings of this Society. It is, indeed, extremely gratifying to contemplate the devout thankfulness, with which the present members receive this portion of temporal and spiritual comfort; and the sense which they appear to entertain, of the superior advantages derived from it.

I have this day been present both at their dinner, and at their evening meeting.—The dinner, which was at one o'clock, consisted of a stew of beef, made savoury, and thickened with pease and a little ground rice. The beef had been gently boiled till it became very tender, and was cut into small pieces. Each member had a slice of brown bread, and a pint of table beer. The quantity of stew made is always more than the members want; and the remainder is given to eight or ten necessitous families in the town, which receive a quart, or two quarts, for each family.

The evening meeting was at seven o'clock. One of the old men was absent, being indisposed; the other nineteen members were present; and, as appeared by calling over their names, had all been at both the morning and evening service: * several

* The parish church of Bishop Auckland is a mile off. A chapel however had been built by subscription in the centre of the town, and all the pews allotted to the subscribers; to this chapel the Bishop has lately made an addition which contains two hundred sittings, appropriated to, and entirely occupied by, the poor.

members certified as to the illness of the old man, who was absent.—The evening reading then began,—three introductory prayers were first read; then the epistle of the day, with the Reverend Mr. Gilpin's paraphrase by way of exposition; then the gospel, with the same paraphrase. A sermon on the observance of the Sabbath, was then read: this was followed by the usual collect after the sermon, and by a prayer composed by the Bishop for aged persons; and so peculiarly adapted to their period of life, that I have added it in a note.* The

O ! Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, our only support in time of trouble and weakness; look down, we beseech thee, with pity and compassion upon us, thy aged and afflicted servants, whose strength is now but labour and sorrow, and who are like to those who are going down to the grave. Quickly shall we be snatched away hence, and our souls be summoned to appear before the tribunal of Christ; to receive our everlasting doom, either of happiness or misery: and yet, O Lord, how do the generality of mankind live in this world, as tho' we were never to leave it! How unmindful we are all of our latter end? how thoughtless of our time! how careless of our souls! and how negligent in our preparation for eternity! We confess with sorrow, that many have been the sins, which we have committed; and that the cares and pleasures of this world have taken up too much of that time, which should have been employed in thy service, and in the great work of our salvation. But, O gracious Lord God, with thee there is mercy, and with thy son Jesus Christ there is plenteous redemption, O remember not the sins and offences of our youth; but grant us unfeigned repentance for all the errors of our past lives, and steadfast faith in thy son Jesus Christ, that our sins may be done away by thy mercy, and our pardon sealed in heaven, before we go hence and be no more seen. Lord, what have we to do in this world, but devote ourselves wholly to thy service, and to the care of our salvation? O ! that we may be daily and hourly mindful of this one thing needful, so that we may finish our work before we finish our course. The more the outward man decayeth, do thou so much the more strengthen us continually with thy grace and holy spirit in

Lord's Prayer, and the concluding blessing, closed the service.

The sermon was read by the Reverend Mr. Capstick, the Vicar of Auckland; who makes a point of regular attendance. When the prayers were concluded, those who had not paid their weekly subscriptions at dinner, brought them to be paid over to the Reverend Mr. Bacon of Bishop Auckland, the Treasurer of the Society, who occasionally assists them in these devotional exercises.

OBSERVATIONS.

The particulars of the Auckland Society have been given less in detail, on account of the similarity between that and the Society at Winston in the same diocese; established upon the Bishop's suggestion, in the same year, by the Reverend Mr. Burgess, one of his Lordship's domestic chaplains. An account of the Winston Society has been inserted in one of the preceding reports of the Society for the Poor. Some difference, however, exists between the two. When, therefore, as in this instance, a measure is extremely and unexceptionably beneficial, it may be useful and satisfactory to have statements of the variety of practicable modes, in which it may be carried into effect; so that the

the inner man: and enable us to spend what little of our time is yet remaining, in fitting and preparing ourselves against the hour of death; so that after our departure hence in peace, and in thy favour, our souls may be received into thine everlasting kingdom, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thine only Son, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

different methods of execution may be adapted to the circumstances of the different readers.

If indeed the advantages of this Society extended no further than to the members themselves, even then it would be of no small moment. To afford comfort to the aged poor,—to supply them with subjects of religious reflection and consolation,—to teach them so to estimate and respect themselves, as to improve and meliorate their conduct,—to promote and reward their habits of foresight and frugality,—to induce them to adopt the exercise of charity themselves, and to bring forward their *mite* with chearfulness for the relief of their more necessitous neighbours,—and to engage them in habits of good will, good neighbourhood, and Christian charity, to the extent of their power,—these are indeed no small advantages to the possessor: but to other persons they are of infinite advantage; for at the same time that they afford the individual * the best preparation for the approaching hour of death, they have an unvaried tendency, by influence and example, to improve the habits and condition of every rational creature that has any connection with them.

Indeed, it must be obvious that Societies of this

* Goldsmith's beautiful description, of the close of a virtuous and extended life, is most likely to be realized and made general, by the establishment of these aged societies:

Onward he moves to meet his latter end,
Angels around befriending virtue's friend;
Sinks to the grave with unperceiv'd decay,
While *resignation* gently slopes the way;
And all his prospects brightning to the last,
His HEAVEN commences, ere this world be past!

kind, the formation and support of which require very little trouble or * expence, must, in their consequences, be productive of considerable effects upon the community at large. Sunday schools, however useful, cannot produce their full benefit, without the example of the aged, to give countenance and weight to the lessons received by the young. But, with the benefit of twenty or more aged persons in every parish, regularly attending divine service and the holy communion, affording to those of middle age an example of prudence, charity, and good neighbourhood, and infusing a desire in the other ages of preparing themselves for the same consolation in the decline of life, it would not be too much to hope, that their example might in time extend itself to *all their neighbours*; and that between Sunday schools and aged societies, a chain of union may be formed, which shall unite all ages and conditions, in the observance of religious and moral duties, and in the practice of Christian charity.

28th August, 1801.

* The whole annual expense of the Auckland Society, tho including another charity that supplies a Sunday dinner to eight or ten other families, does not much exceed £. 30.

No. XC.

Extract from an Account of the Schools of Industry at Kendal. By THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.

IN attempting to give an account of the schools, which have been lately established for the education of poor children at Kendal, a populous manufacturing town in the county of Westmoreland, I must previously notice the *blue-coat schools*, and the *sunday schools*, which had existed in that place, prior to the introduction of that system of education, which is peculiarly the subject of this paper. The first of these schools, had been regularly visited by the subscribers, and the children were encouraged to attend the latter, and their parents to send them, by the prospect which has been held out, to both boys and girls, of being elected into the *blue-coat schools*, or of obtaining the *green clothes*, which are the personal donation of a charitable individual in that place.—Still, however, there wanted system in the arrangement of the plan; and, in the execution, there was required the impulse of reward and encouragement, to occupy and command the attention of the children.

In May 1797, Dr. Briggs submitted to the governors of the Sunday schools his sentiments on the subject of them. As those observations have produced a very beneficial effect at Kendal, and, with very few exceptions, will apply to *all the*

Sunday schools in England, it may not be amiss briefly to state them.—In the first place he objected, not merely to the degree in which corporal punishment was inflicted by the masters of the schools, but to their power of inflicting it at all, except by the authority, and in the presence, of the visitor of the schools.—He also suggested an increase of rewards, of such a nature as to be to them most acceptable, and *not distant in prospect*; recommending in a particular manner that most effectual, and most economical, of all rewards—**PRAISE** and **COMMENDATION**—wherever due; and, in all cases, to be bestowed by the visitors and directors themselves.

In the distribution of the prizes to the children at the sunday schools, the objects of reward, he thought, should not be *brilliancy of talent*, or even *proficiency in learning*; but that kind of merit which might offer to *every scholar* the ground of competition;—viz. *regularity of attendance, cleanliness of person, habitual diligence, and orderly behaviour*;—points, upon which the governors might decide with facility, and with unvaried impartiality.—In objecting to early hours, Dr. Briggs has not been biassed by a *fellow feeling for indolence*; as, notwithstanding his professional occupation, and his civil duties as Mayor of Kendal, he has generally attended, as visitor of the Kendal schools, from **SIX TO SEVEN O'CLOCK EVERY MORNING.**

The governors adopted his suggestions; and they have been followed with as much success, as

even an ardent and benevolent mind could have wished. It is a gratifying circumstance to the *Society for bettering the condition of the Poor*, to be authorized to state, that the perusal of their reports, published about that time, stimulated Dr. Briggs to pursue the success of his first attempt, by more extensive and effectual measures. He immediately applied his mind to form a general plan for the education and improvement of all the rising generation at Kendal, and produced the following detail, or outline, in the beginning of the year 1799.—First, that public schools should be established in Kendal, where all the children of the poor might be employed during the day,* in various kinds of work, and from whence they might return to their parents at night.—Second, that the

* There is nothing that can make the exertions of the society more useful than the supplying of employment for children from 12 to 18 years of age. The want of this is a great cause of dissolute habits in the lower ranks of society; where the greater number of children, particularly girls, are not only without occupation during that period, but without even the prospect of being fit for service. The invention and improvement of machinery has now nearly put an end to spinning by hand: weeding and stone picking afford employment for one part of the year; and, for the other, pilfering and hedge-breaking.—Whether we consider the general good of society,—the welfare of the poor,—or the interest of those who maintain them,—we must feel equally impressed with the important duty, of affording to the rising generation the means of acquiring an honest livelihood, and of thereby preventing those criminal habits which lead to their irrecoverable ruin, and in their consequences to the destruction of social order and civil government.—These observations make part of a letter from Mr. Montagu Burgoyne; to whom the thanks of the Society have been given for the communication.

2d July, 1802.

scholars should be divided into a convenient number of classes ; and that each class should be taken from work an hour every day, to be taught to read and write, in a separate room, by a master provided for that purpose.—Third, that the scholars be entitled to the *whole* of their earnings ; subject only to a small fixed deduction for school wages, less than what they had been accustomed to pay at other schools.—Fourth, that annual premiums should be offered for the best specimens of the different kinds of work.—Fifth, that to these schools a public kitchen and eating room should be added ; where any of the scholars, who choose, may dine * comfortably at a cheap rate :—and Sixth, that a certain number of the elder girls should be appointed to assist in the kitchen, by rotation.

In consequence of this proposal, a meeting of the inhabitants of Kendal was called, on the 14th of February, 1799 ; Mr. Wilson the then Mayor of Kendal, being in the chair. The plan was adopted, a committee appointed, and a subscription opened for carrying it into effect. In May 1799, the committee gave notice of the opening of the schools, for the employment, and instruction, of

* Some inconvenience attended the existence of the *penny ordinary*. In consequence of the pressure of the times, it was separated from the schools, and annexed to the soup establishment ; and opened to the poor at large. The average number of dinner customers was, at one time, as many as 160. It is, at present, discontinued.—I find that the conductors of these schools are opening it again for a limited number of their best scholars, to be *selected and continued by merit* ; and have set up, for that purpose, a Rumford roaster, which answers very completely.

children of three years old, and upwards ; with the addition of a penny ordinary, for those who chose to partake of it.

The schools of industry at Kendal, contain 112 children ; whereof 30 of the larger girls are employed in spinning, sewing, knitting, and in the work of the house ; and the 36 younger girls in knitting only. Eight boys are taught shoe-making, and the remaining 38 are engaged in what is called *card setting* ;*—the preparing of the machinery for carding wool ; an occupation apparently difficult and intricate, but easily learnt, and peculiarly adapted to little children. For the industry schools there are two mistresses for knitting and spinning, at eight shillings a week each ; and a master shoe-maker, whose salary (arising out of an allowance of two-pence a pair for finishing the shoes ; and in fact deducted out of his scholars' earnings,) amounts to twelve shillings a week. For the reading and writing school there is a master, aged 18, at half a guinea a week ; and an usher, a boy of 14, who was allowed eighteen-pence a week, but, in consequence of superior offers, is now engaged at three shillings a week. These two, with the assistance of the upper and more intelligent boys, supply all the requisite instruction for these industry schools, where 112 children are educated and fitted for useful life. The expense of

* For this occupation of the children, the charity is indebted to Mr. Isaac Rigge, one of the society of friends at Kendal ; who has not only made a point of giving this supply of work to the schools, but has also required of all the children employed by him that they should attend one hour daily, at the *reading school* of the schools of industry.

the whole establishment, in salaries, fires, candles, rent, and every other incidental charge (furniture, premiums, and school wages being deducted,)* has amounted in two years to only £ 110. 1s. 2d.; or £ 55. 0s. 7d. a year.—For this annual expenditure, how much has been done, will be detailed in the remaining pages of this extract; in which I shall direct my attention chiefly to those points, in which the schools at Kendal differ from other schools.

Of the boys, I have already stated that, eight are employed in making shoes. This is the most expensive part of the establishment, the extra expense of teaching these eight boys being something more than twenty guineas a year; so that, if this were deducted, the cost of teaching the other scholars would not be so much as six shillings a year, or about five farthings a week, each. But, perhaps however, this will be found to have answered as well as any part of the establishment; these boys being now, at the end of 18 months, able to make shoes completely, except finishing with the knife, which is the last and most difficult part of the work. Some of them can even do this. The two best of these shoe-makers *are neither of them 12 years of age;* and yet are capable, at that age, of earning, at Kendal, from three to four shillings a week each. One of these boys would, without any apprentice fee, be an acquisition, as an apprentice, to any master shoe-maker.

* The furniture and fitting up has cost £ 46. 18s. 1½d.; the amount of the premiums is £ 23. 14s. 0½d.; and the school wages, received of the scholars, and in fact paid out of their earnings, £ 95. 13s. 9½d.—This is for two years.

The girls schools are now, except as to their attendance on the reading school, entirely under the direction of a committee of ladies ; who regularly visit and superintend them, and have produced an apparent difference, in the cleanliness of their apartments, and in their personal appearance. The original plan for the instruction of them, in the different kinds of kitchen work, is in part executed. Breakfast is provided at the school daily except on Saturdays and Sundays, for above 40 scholars ; each of whom pays four-pence half-penny a week ; a sum, which will barely defray the expense of provisions, without the fuel. The elder girls are employed, in rotation, to assist in preparing breakfast, and in washing the utensils. I was present at their breakfast to-day (10th of August, 1801) when abundance of very good milk-porridge was served up, and partaken of by all the children, in a cleanly and decent manner. The object, which has been attained by providing the breakfasts, is the punctual attendance of the children in the morning ; which had been frequently prevented by the real, or pretended, irregularity of their breakfasts at home.

Four of the girls have been, for two or three months, learning to wash. They bring their own family linen every Friday evening, being furnished with soap, fuel, and necessary accommodations, *gratis*. Two other girls have already been sufficiently instructed in it ; and, in consequence, have gone into service. Other girls are to be taught in their turns.

The committee is preparing to erect an oven, and a baking plate ; so that the girls may learn to make oaten cake, and wheaten bread. It is proposed that they shall then be encouraged to bring oatmeal and flour from home ; so as to make bread and oat-cake at the schools, for their respective families. This will not only be very useful to servants, but will also supply most essential qualifications for the wife of the cottager ; so as to enable her to fill properly, and *economically*, the duties of her station in life.

The *mode of teaching the children their letters is deserving of attention. They are taught first to copy the capital letters in sand, from a printed card ; beginning with the most simple forms, as I H T, &c. and proceeding to those that are more complex. They then learn to copy the smaller letters in the same way, and in alphabetical order. It is very curious to observe with what readiness and correctness the youngest of these children will form these letters in the sand ; and how willingly they will make the knowledge of them a matter of amusement, and of self-gratification.

A set of maps having been presented and hung up in the school, Dr. Briggs adopted the idea of encouraging and stimulating the attention of the children, by giving them, every week, some easy lessons in practical geography. Those who have

* This mode was originally suggested by Dr. Bell of Madras, in a pamphlet published by Messrs. Cadell and Davies. As this method of teaching the letters may be useful, not only at Kendal, but all over the kingdom, we have inserted Dr. Briggs's plan, in the Appendix No. II.

not visited these schools may, probably, doubt (as I did) of the propriety of making this a part of the education of *poor* children. Upon attending this morning, however, I have had reason to appreciate highly the effects of this addition to their instruction ; especially when I have considered, that these children might hereafter be placed in mercantile or naval situations, where this knowledge would be of essential use to them. I found, indeed, that those, who answered best upon this examination, were the same who carried off the prizes of industry ; and I had reason to believe, that, from the information and pleasure which they received in this instance, they transferred a spirit and energy to all their other occupations.

The queries were not put in an arranged series ; but were varied in expression and order, and were always applied to the maps around them — Nothing could exceed the air of intelligence, and the eagerness, and correctness, with which the children gave their answers, but the rapidity and precision of the questions* put by DANIEL, THE USHER OF THE SCHOOL (a boy of fourteen years of age, whom Dr. Briggs, then present, directed to make the examination) and the severe impartiality with which he passed on to the next child,

* I am ashamed to say that I lost some part of the instruction, which I might have obtained from Daniel's questions, and the children's answers ; for I could not help endeavouring to calculate exactly the precise quantum of service, which Daniel, *when he can be spared*, may be of in the metropolis ; by finishing the education of our men of high rank and learning, in *practical geography*, before they set off on their travels.

if there was the least delay or mistake in the answer.

In the introduction of geography into his schools, Dr. Briggs had another very important object in view;—that of preparing the minds of the children for a system of **RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION** on a similar plan; so as to enable them to give a reason of the faith that is in them, whenever they may be assailed by **SOPHISTRY AND INFIDELITY**. At our request, Dr. Briggs examined the children in sacred history, carrying his questions and instruction through the Old Testament; in a way, not only to open and improve their minds, but to afford instruction to my friend and myself, who afterwards agreed that we had never received a more useful lesson in sacred history. This second examination occupied the school until half past eight o'clock, when the children were summoned to breakfast.

A circumstance had occurred in the *blue-coat* schools, which may shew how easy it would be, in *visited* and well regulated institutions to make the elder children the teachers and instructors of the others. The schoolmaster was compelled to ask leave of absence for a fortnight; and it was agreed, that his school must be shut up, of course. Mr. Dillworth Crewdson, one of the society of *friends* at Kendal, determined to try the experiment of putting the care of the school, during the master's absence, under *monitors*, selected from among the boys; he and some others of the governors accidentally looking in, and giving

occasional attention, according to their convenience. The event of the experiment has been, that the school was as well conducted during that month of the master's absence, and the progress of instruction was as great, as at any other time.

The benefit of the Kendal schools has been much augmented by the willing and frequent attendance of several of the most respectable ladies and gentlemen of that place. This again has received additional advantages from the public examinations of the scholars, and from the annual publication, not only of the names of *the children* who have obtained premiums, but of the circumstances relating to them. More will still be done if a closer union takes place between the *industry schools*, and the *blue-coat schools*; so as, not only to make the one a preparatory seminary for the other, but to propose the attainment of a place in the *blue-coat schools*, as an object of desire and ambition to every child in the *schools of industry*.

OBSERVATIONS.

Having extended to some length my account of the industry schools at Kendal, I shall confine my observations to one of the peculiar features of these charities;—the employing of some of the scholars, in aid of the general system of discipline. The whole plan of education in these schools, is carried on by a master aged 18 years, employing some of the children to teach the younger part of the school, and having the aid of an assistant usher, a boy of 14 years of age; and it is conducted in such a manner

as to make the success and progressive utility of the teachers, a spur to the industry of every other child in the school.

There are many and great advantages in employing scholars, in every school, in aid of instruction and institution. The pupils are taught and improved, whilst they are teaching and improving others. Such assistants may be had without expense, and at the moment when they are wanted. They may be dismissed without any pension from the funds, and without any call for that pity which will, in some cases, induce governors of schools to vitiate the whole system, rather than discard or supersede an unworthy or incapable usher.

It has been observed that, whenever ushers of *mature years* are *completely* fitted for teachers, they are capable of earning a greater salary than the school can afford ; so that all, who are *really fit* for the situation, are looking out for something better. A similar circumstance may attend those selected from the pupils themselves ; but what is an evil in one case, operates as a benefit in the other. The spirit of the establishment, which has raised one boy above the situation, has fitted and prepared* others to succeed him. Besides this, children, who have been accustomed to exert themselves at an early age in hope of advancement, will possess more spirit, and more industry, than others who

* The succession of new and *golden* fruit, to supply that which is plucked off, will in this instance be as perfect, and as *uninterrupted*, as in the fiction of the poet :

—primo avulso, non deficit alter

AUREUS ; et simili frondescit virga metallo,

have not had the same advantage. They will soon learn *to do every thing for themselves*; and will go into life with the habit of success, with the due value of character and reputation, and with the inestimable possession of active and invigorating industry.

In order to calculate how far this theory may be extended, let us suppose that an asylum be formed for the education of the poor, on a scale capable of receiving 200 children; or (to simplify the statement) 200 boys.—That their objects of attainment be reading, writing, arithmetic, religious instruction, grammar, geography, geometry, navigation, astronomy, and whatever else may fit a boy to be useful in life.—That, for this purpose, there shall be the superintendence of one intelligent director, who shall employ, for the care of the school, a master, and two undermasters,* with very moderate salaries; not so much (with respect to the under masters) to supply instruction, as to aid in the discipline of the schools, to mark the regularity or attention of the scholars, and to note their punctuality or remissness in their daily tasks and attendances. That, for the purpose of instructing these boys, 14 of the eldest, or most intelligent, be selected;—that to one of them aged 14 years, with an assistant of 12 years old, there be committed

* The under masters need not be, in point of literary attainment, on a footing even with the upper boys of the schools.—For this office, some of the reduced serjeants of the militia, or of the army, if orderly, well-tempered, and properly impressed with sentiments of religion, might be as fitted as any other class of men; and their salary might be very limited.

the care of the upper class, containing 34 boys;—that to 3 other boys of ages from 11 to 14, be entrusted the care and instruction of the three next classes, containing 61 boys;—that for the several other classes, where the instruction does not extend beyond mere reading (the letters being taught by writing in sand, as before-mentioned) or beyond the elementary parts of writing and arithmetic, there be one master, aged 12 years and 8 months, with seven assistants of ages from eight to twelve years.

Let us suppose that the business of these little teachers is not to punish, but to prevent, faults; not to deter from misconduct, but to preclude it; and to use that influence, which children naturally possess over their immediate juniors, in forming and regulating the minds of their pupils; and that, when they shall have spent a year as teachers, they shall with pleasure move on to a superior class, into which they shall enter as mere scholars; increased, however, in diligence, in respect that they have been in the situation of instructing others. Let us further suppose that for boys so taught, and teaching, situations readily offer in life; and that few are not sought for before twelve years of age, as apprentices to some advantageous and useful trade.—But let the reader beware how he ventures hastily to reject all this, as *impracticable theory*;—for it is a plain and literal account of the MALE ASYLUM AT MADRAS,—as it existed in 1796, under the superintending care of the Reverend Dr. Bell.

10th August, 1801.

No. XCI.

*Extract from an Account of a Supply of Blankets to
the Poor at Kendal. By Mr. WILLIAM
CREWDSON.*

IN December 1800, the committee appointed for the purpose of assisting the industrious poor at Kendal, laid in a store of 300 pair of blankets of the manufacture of that town; to be lent out for the winter to certain poor families, who were to pay for each blanket so lent, a monthly advance of one halfpenny a week; upon the condition, that when the original cost of the blanket should have been paid by the hirer, it should become his own property.

In order to ascertain the proper objects of the charity, the committee divided the town into 14 districts; and 14 members of the committee agreed, each to visit one district, and to make a written report, according to a printed form, of the situation, employment and character of each family, and the individuals of which it is composed; and by these means, with very little personal trouble in ascertaining proper objects for this charitable loan, the committee had before them in three weeks the particulars of 444 families.

These reports * have been since bound up to-

* The reports contained under heads, 1st. the number and names of the persons in the family; 2d. their respective occupations; 3d. their several ages; 4th. the weekly earnings of each individual; the names of the persons by whom they are employed; 6th. their state of health; and 7th. the observations and recommendations of the visitor.

gether, with an alphabetical index; for reference as to the circumstances of persons requiring and deserving relief in Kendal, and particularly as to those industrious persons, who were striving to bring up their families, without the aid of personal charity, or parochial relief.

The blankets had been wove with a stripe down the middle, so as to prevent any danger of their being carried to the pawnbroker's shop without detection. When the reports of the visitors had been taken into consideration, 390 families were selected, which were each supplied with one or two comfortable blankets, upon their paying a month in advance, and signing an undertaking with regard to the continuance of the payment, and the returning of the blankets when required. A duplicate of this undertaking was given them, to be produced when they make the monthly payment for the hire of the blanket, in order that notice of the payment may be thereon indorsed, as a receipt for the money.

Several months have elapsed since the delivery of these blankets; and yet, in no instance, and with all the pressure of the preceding winter, has any payment been discontinued. In some instances, the payment has not been quite regular; but this has proceeded, rather from inadvertence, than from default; and, upon notice, has been immediately set right. The intention was that, when the winter was over, the blankets should be returned, cleaned, and laid by against the next winter. The poor, however, were very anxious to retain them; and

(upon being told that they must part with them, in order to their being cleaned) most of them took them to a neighbouring fulling-mill, and had them cleaned at their own cost ; and in consequence have kept them, and continued their payments.

In October 1801, the committee came to a resolution, that those who had the blankets in use, might purchase them out, on payment of four shillings a pair, in four weekly instalments. The offer was generally accepted, though not by all. Abundant gratitude was expressed in the countenance of most of them, when they had the satisfaction of making good their final payment.

OBSERVATIONS.

The rich and opulent cannot always be aware how little provided the necessitous poor are with bedding, and how much they suffer for want of this necessary article of furniture. Those, however, who have devoted much time in personal attentions to the poor, will feel that the amplest and most abundant supplies, which eager charity could afford, would have an ultimate tendency, by diminishing the industry and exertions of the poor, to increase their necessity ; and would by no means, and in no possible event, operate to remove the evil.

Under these circumstances what can be better done by the charitable and benevolent, than, in this instance, to examine and imitate the example of the Kendal committee.—They will there find, in the very vestibule and commencement of the

charity, that the character as well as the necessity of the object is first to be enquired into ;—and even then his industry is not to be oppressed and overwhelmed by a thoughtless and inconsiderate profusion of relief; which endeavours to compensate, by extravagance, for the neglect of due attendance on duty ;—but that the time and attention of the donors are occupied not merely in preventing the poor from abusing the charity and converting it to their own evil, but in teaching, inducing and enabling them to purchase, at a cheap and moderate rate for themselves, their own means of relief: and to obtain the inestimable gratification, of continuing to exist and thrive by their own industry.

26th Dec. 1801.

No. XCII.

Extract from an Account of the Institution to prevent the Progress of the Contagious Fever in the Metropolis. By THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.*

THAT the Poor of every populous town are peculiarly liable to the attacks of contagious distempers, is a fact which has been stated by Dr. Murray in a late publication, and of which a variety of melancholy evidence may be adduced. To those only, who have been led to explore the recesses of poverty and disease in the metropolis, can it be known how many circumstances there are, both within and without the dwellings of the poor, contributing to the generating and spreading of infection;—fatal and ruinous in their effects, tho' easily corrigible by the attention of the other classes of society.

By physicians of the dispensaries it had long been lamented that, among the close and unhealthy courts and alleys of the metropolis, the power of medicine has proved inadequate to check the progress of contagious fever, while parents and their children were, in all cases, to remain within their own *infected* walls. Even if health were restored by medical skill and attention, still the habitation remained subject to the acquired contagion, for

* This paper was originally prepared for the Reports, but its insertion has been deferred on account of its having been printed separately, and distributed by the desire of the Committee of the Fever Institution.

want of that purification, the expense and trouble of which, tho' inconsiderable in themselves, were beyond the scope and extent of the funds of institutions, often pressed upon by a number of claimants, exceeding their means of relief.

It had therefore been the anxious wish of some of the Directors of those charities, that an adequate remedy might be adopted for this evil. In the mean time, in May, 1796, there had been formed at Manchester * the dignified and exemplary establishment of HOUSES OF RECOVERY, to check the progress of the infectious fevert among the poor. The members of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor have contributed to make known the regulations of this charity, and its extraordinary and beneficial effects, in alleviating one of the greatest calamities, to which our necessitous brethren are subject. For detailed information on this subject, the reader is referred to a recent Letter of Dr. Haygarth's on the prevention of

* It should be noticed that fever-wards for preventing the spreading of infectious fevers had been proposed by Dr. Haygarth in 1775; and had been established by him in Chester, as early as 1783.

† DR. CLARK, of Newcastle upon Tyne, has been very strenuously and honourably employed, in promoting an institution in that place, for the cure and prevention of contagious fevers. The increase of fever patients, in the books of their dispensary, has *of late* been very alarming. It has probably been occasioned, in some degree, by the scarcity, in that place, in the metropolis, in Manchester, and in many other parts of England. The number of *fever patients* admitted into their dispensary in 1799 was *fifty one*: in 1800 *one hundred and twenty-one*; and in 1801 *THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY SEVEN*.

3d June, 1802.

Infectious Fevers,*—to the three volumes of Dr. Ferriar's Medical Histories and Reflections,—to Dr. Willan's Reports on the Diseases in London,—and to the above mentioned pamphlet of Dr. Murray's, which has been lately published by the desire and at the expense of the Society.—In their Reports† there will be found some account of the Institution at Manchester, from whence I have selected the following circumstances.

1st. As to the comparative number of contagious fevers in Manchester, for three years previous to the establishment of the House of Recovery in May, 1796, and in one year succeeding its establishment, it appears to have been as follows :

From Sept. 1793, to May, 1796,	- 12563
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From May, 1796, to May, 1797,	- 26
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2d. With regard to its effect on general health, as ascertained by the number of fever cases admitted into the Manchester Infirmary, before and after the establishment of the House of Recovery, there were

* The practical conclusions in Dr. Haygarth's letter on the prevention of infectious fevers, are so deserving of attention, that I insert them as a note. 1st. Medical, clerical, and other visitors of patients in infectious fevers, may fully perform their important duties with safety to themselves.—2d. In any house, with spacious apartments, the whole family, even the nurses of a patient ill of a typhous fever, may be preserved from infection.—3d. Schools may be preserved from febrile infection.—4th. In an hospital infectious fevers ought never to be admitted into the same wards with patients ill of other diseases.—5th. When an infectious fever is in a small house, the family cannot be preserved from it, unless the patients are removed into a separate building.

† See the Society's Reports, Vol. I. p. 98, and Vol. II. p. 224, and p. 95 of Appendix.

Fever patients in January 1796,	-	226
in January 1797,	-	57

3dly. As to the total of patients in the Manchester Infirmary, tho before the establishment of the House many cases were refused on account of the greater press and claim of fever patients, there were.

From June 1795, to June 1796,	-	2880
From June 1796, to June 1797,	-	1759
From June 1797, to June 1798,	-	1564

4th. In order to shew the comparative mortality in the House of Recovery, upon the fever cases admitted into it, I proceed to observe that, from 19th of May, 1796, to 1st of January, 1797, there were admitted 274; of these there died 21: admitted in 1797, 349; of these there died 27: admitted in 1798, 381; of these there died 21. The proportion of deaths in the Manchester House of Recovery, for these three years, will therefore appear to be as follows: in 1796, not quite 1 in 11: in 1797, about 1 in 13: and in 1798, less than 1 in 18.— It is no small gratification to observe the progress of success in the Manchester House of Recovery; a success which may be imputed to two circumstances;—1st. that the Poor do now apply more early and more willingly;—and 2dly, that they apply with more hope and confidence of recovery.

5th. The limits of the Manchester House of Recovery were, at first, necessarily confined to a few streets in the vicinage. They are now extended, *without distinction*, not only to all Manchester, but also to all its neighbourhood for three miles round,

as far as patients can conveniently be brought: and yet with all this enlarged scope of benevolence, and with the admission of every fever patient to be found in those extensive limits, the number of patients in the House of Recovery were, when I visited it in August, 1798, nineteen; and when I visited it in October, 1799, eleven.

6th. To these facts, tending to explain the benefits of such an institution in checking the progress of infection, and in diminishing the general proportion and prevalence of disease and mortality to which our nature is subject, I will add a statement of the relative bearings of expense and effect; and observe that the fever patients cured in the Manchester House of Recovery, in the year 1798, were three hundred and sixty; all of whom had their houses and property cleansed, and purified from contagion, and the progress of infection completely stopped. The expence of *this boon to human nature* amounted to SEVEN HUNDRED POUNDS.

Impressed by these circumstances, and by other corroborating facts, for the detail of which the reader may refer to their Reports, and to Dr. Heygarth's and Dr. Ferriar's publications, the Society has directed its attention to the subject; and in the early part of the preceding winter, at the request of their Committee, Dr. Murray, one of the physicians to the Public Dispensary in Carey-street, prepared and published his "Remarks on the " Situation of the Poor in the Metropolis, as con- " tributing to the Progress of Contagious Diseases; " with a Plan for the Institution of Houses of

"Recovery, for Persons infected by Fever." The pressure of the existing scarcity had delayed for a few months the progress of any active measures on the subject. A meeting, however, was at length called for the first of May, to take measures for forming the institution in the metropolis.

The attendance at this meeting was such as, from the nature of the subject, might have been expected. The Duke of Somerset, the Earl of Pomfret, the Bishop of London, and the Bishop of Durham (who, by desire of the meeting, took the chair) together with many respectable inhabitants of the metropolis, (after the certificate from several physicians of hospitals and dispensaries in London, as to the prevalence of infectious fever, had been read,) adopted unanimously upon the motion of Lord Sheffield the resolutions—that it appears to this meeting, by a certificate from the physicians of the hospitals and dispensaries in London, that the contagious malignant fever has been for some time past, and now is, prevalent in the metropolis: and that it has been occasioned by individual infection, which, with proper care, might have been immediately checked—or has been produced, or renewed, by the dwellings of the poor not having been properly cleansed and purified from contagion, after the fever has been prevalent in them:—that it also appears that this evil (the injury and danger of which extend to every part of the metropolis) might be prevented, by cleansing and purifying the clothes, furniture, and apartments, of persons attacked by this disease, and by removing them from

situations where, if they remain, the infection of others is inevitable:—and that a SUBSCRIPTION be immediately set on foot, for the purpose of forming an Institution, for checking the progress of the contagious malignant fever in the metropolis,* and for removing the causes of infection

* Previous to the opening the House of Recovery in Gray's-Inn-Road, a reference was made to the medical Committee, and the following Report was made and signed by Sir Walter Farquhar, Dr. Garthshire, Dr. Latham, Dr. Lettsom, Dr. Cooke, Dr. Willan, Dr. Stanger, and Dr. Murray, being dated Nov. 17, 1801.

From the experience of Chester, Manchester, Waterford, and other places where houses for the reception of persons in fever have been established, we are satisfied that the number of contagious fevers has been greatly diminished, not only in towns, but in the very district and neighbourhood, where Houses of Recovery have been situated. From this circumstance, therefore, as well as from our own knowledge, and the statement of those who have the best means of observation; we are of opinion, that, the proper and necessary regulations for the internal management of the House in Gray's-Inn-Lane-Road being adopted, there will be no reasonable ground of apprehension on the part of the neighbouring inhabitants. On the contrary, we believe that there will be much less danger of the atmosphere in that neighbourhood being infected by the proposed House of Recovery, than there now is in the populous districts of the town, from the prevalence of fever in workhouses, or in the habitations of the poor.

At the same time, we cannot help suggesting to the committee, that the present establishment will not, in itself, be adequate to the general relief of our extensive metropolis, although the measure is, in our opinion, of the utmost importance and necessity; and is imperiously called for by the present situation of this great city; yet we conceive that it cannot be effectually carried into execution without the assistance of Government, in aid of private donations, and of such parochial contributions as the good sense, or particular circumstances, of some parishes may induce them to supply. In a national as well as a municipal view, there is hardly any object of more consequence, or which ought, in our opinion, to be more generally the concern of

from the dwellings of the poor, upon a plan similar to that which has been adopted with great success and effect at MANCHESTER.

OBSERVATIONS.

It is a curious and interesting fact that the establishment of one solitary House of Recovery at Manchester, with an expense not exceeding £700. a year, should have nearly put an end to the contagious fever in that place ;—a place where the cotton mills and a variety of other circumstances, aided by extreme population, furnish so abundant a supply for the renewal of infection. That, in one year, the average of fever should be diminished from 471 to 26,—the fever cases of the general infirmary to *one-fourth*,—their other patients to *nearly half*—and the proportion of mortality under the fever from a *ninth* to an *eighteenth*, afford a pleasing example of what may be done by active and intelligent benevolence,—labouring for the benefit of its fellow creatures. This, however, has

all ranks of people,—of the rich as well as the poor,—than the adoption of measures for checking the progress of infectious fever; so as to prevent its diffusing itself from unknown and unexamined sources, and spreading desolation through the whole town; and thereby unavoidably affecting many parts of the kingdom at large. The preservatives against this calamity are now generally and practically known; experience has afforded the most unequivocal and satisfactory evidence in their favour: and while other places within the British isles, with far more limited resources, have successfully adopted means of remedy and prevention against this evil, we cannot but express our confident hope that the opulent cities of London and Westminster will not be backward in imitating so wise and so benevolent an example.

been attended with many other advantages, in the diminution of the general mortality of that place, and in the improvement of the domestic comfort and well-being of the poor.

In the common cases of infectious fevers, if we suppose that only one in eight dies (and the proportion is sometimes one in four) yet we must take into the consideration, that of the other seven, many are nearly ruined in health and circumstances, and hardly any have the infection* entirely removed from their houses. Such is the condition of parts of the metropolis, from whence the infection of fever, tho' occasionally suspended by a frost, has not for years been effectually removed ; and in which, when the sad tale of indigence and mendicity is unfolded, the *infectious fever* so frequently occurs as the original cause of their calamity.

Whatever may have been the call for this charity in Manchester, the circumstances of London do still more imperiously demand it ; and I shall not willingly believe, that the energy and liberality of the metropolis will not be adequate to the increased sphere of action. If we can commence our opera-

* The expediency of frequently whitewashing all manufactorys and all the habitations of the poor, cannot be too frequently or too strongly enforced.—In 1794 a putrid fever attacked a cotton mill belonging to Messrs. Marriott and Ecroyd, near Colne in Lancashire. Out of 120 persons employed there, 70 had the fever, all of whom recovered, except one old man. From that time, the mill has been whitewashed with quick lime twice a year, and the cottages of the workmen once or more every year ; and no infection (the small-pox excepted) has since appeared among the persons employed there ; all of whom at present enjoy a remarkably good state of health.

tions only in a limited district, we may hope, even in a few months, gradually to extend its sphere, as has been rapidly and effectually done at Manchester, and soon to embrace the whole metropolis.* The position,—the local situation,—being once obtained, and the advantages pursued, the whole operation may be easily effected.

It has been said, that all the relief that is wanted, may be supplied by the existing medical hospitals.—The evil is not recent, nor unknown to the faculty: nor is the remedy a matter of theory or of speculation. Five years experience have been supplied by the well-directed philanthropy of the inhabitants of Manchester. Yet, in all that time,

* Nothing can be more honourable than the spirit with which the subscription to a House of Recovery has been commenced at Dublin. It was set on foot in March last, and on the 24th of May the subscriptions (including a grant of £1500. from Government) amounted to £6827 9s. 6d. The following sums were at the head of the list.

THE LORD LIEUTENANT THE EARL

OF HARDWICKE	-	-	-	£300	0
The Right Hon. CHARLES ABBOT	-	-	-	200	0
Luke White, Esq.	-	-	-	200	0
The Right Hon. David Latouche	-	-	-	500	0
Lord Oxmantown	-	-	-	200	0
G. and L. Maquay	-	-	-	100	0
The Rev. E. Taylor	-	-	-	100	0
Sir W. G. Newcomen	-	-	-	200	0
Sir Thomas Lighton	-	-	-	100	0
The Governors of Apothecary's Hall	-	-	-	68	15
Dublin Hospital	-	-	-	100	0
Finlay and Co.	-	-	-	100	0
J. Claudius Beresford	-	-	-	113	15
Byrne and Co.	-	-	-	100	0

The other subscriptions were of sums of 50 guineas and under. The plan is to open an House of Recovery for 80 fever patients.

29th June, 1802.

no movement has been made in the metropolis ;—nothing has been done. And, indeed, it should seem, that before any effectual remedy for contagious fevers can be applied by our medical hospitals, the regulation, which confines the time of admission to one day in a week, must be given up. Those patients, who are the proper objects of such an institution, must be *sought for* in their wretched habitations, and brought in at all times,—not as a mere boon, or personal favour,—not upon the interest of a governor,—but *as an act of free benevolence*; applying its operations, upon a general system of municipal policy, for the benefit of the whole of the metropolis; and extending those operations from the roof of the hospital * *into the dwelling of the patient*, so as to remove the very vestiges of infection.

In one way, indeed, the medical hospitals may both assist, and receive benefit from, this object ;—by appropriating some of their vacant wards exclusively for fever patients: a measure that not only might increase their funds, and their means of being useful, but would, if we may judge from

* In the proceedings (very lately published) of the Committee, for increasing the usefulness of the dispensary at Newcastle upon Tyne, there is a curious fact stated respecting *Whitehaven* and its vicinity; which had been very fatally infested by the *putrid fever*. A regular and systematic observance of preventatives, in the houses of the sick, was adopted in 1784; and it has been attended with an increase of general health in the inhabitants, and of a reduction of fever patients there, from 401 (the number in 1784) of whom 9 had died; and from 370 (of whom 20 died) in 1785, to 13 in 1798, of whom one died, and to 12 fever patients, of whom only one died, in 1799.

what has passed at Manchester, eventually relieve them by diminishing the number of patients.

Before I conclude, I should observe that, tho' the mild weather of the two preceding winters has, at present, augmented the contagious fever * in the metropolis, yet it has not been in a state of increase for some years back.—From the period when it raged under the name of the plague † in London,

* The following curious table of the annual average number of deaths from fever (including the articles malignant fever, scarlet fever, spotted fever, and purples), in each period of ten years, from the beginning of last century, has been compiled by Dr. Willan, from the London Bills of Mortality.

Average of ten years, from	1701 to 1710	-	3230
	1711 to 1720	-	3656
	1721 to 1730	-	4037
	1731 to 1740	-	3432
	1741 to 1750	-	4351
In the year 1750	-	-	4294
Average of ten years, from	1751 to 1760	-	2564
	1761 to 1770	-	3521
	1771 to 1780	-	2589
	1781 to 1790	-	2459
	1791 to 1800	-	1988
In the year 1800	-	-	2712
In the first quarter of 1801, 725 deaths, equal to an annual amount of	-	-	2900
In the second quarter of 1801, 774 deaths, equal to an annual amount of	-	-	3096
Annual average of the first 50 years	-	-	3951
last 50 years	-	-	2424
whole century	-	-	3188

The decrease in this list, of the number of deaths from the year 1750, is to be imputed partly to the increased system of cleanliness which was then adopted, and partly to the diminution in the use of spirituous liquors, in consequence of the gin-act, passed in 1753.—Opposite causes, connected with the late scarcity, have recently made a great increase of deaths by fever.

† The want of air and cleanliness appears to be the great cause both of the plague, and of the malignant fever. There seems to be a considerable degree of affinity between

and spread general and resistless havock, a gradual diminution (as appears by the bills of mortality) had taken place at the end of the 17th century. Between that and the year 1750, it had again considerably increased ; and we then find, that the deaths by fever, in that year, amounted to 4,294, being almost a fifth of the whole mortality of London. The improvements in the edifices of the metropolis, and the attention to domestic and personal cleanliness which was then awakened, have since reduced the mortality by fevers, except at the present time, to less than half its average in the year 1750 ; yet there has always existed abundant reason for deplored, on the score both of humanity and of policy, the individual misery and public loss, occasioned by the ravages of contagion. The increased mortality from this cause within the last 18 months, has more especially evinced the necessity of measures being adopted for remedying this extensive evil. Whatever difficulties may obstruct the attainment of so great and so desirable an object, I trust that the friends of human nature will not shrink from their duty ; but will proceed in the confidence, that by the united efforts of medical skill and active philanthropy, we shall soon check

these two diseases. In a late publication *on the increase and decrease of different diseases, and particularly of the plague*, Dr. Heberden, junior, has given a very curious detail of information on the subject. Many circumstances, and among others, that of the malignant fever preceding, and following, the plague, seem to prove that the plague is merely an aggravated malignant fever. Dr. Haygarth observes that the plague is a species of fever; and that it does not render the atmosphere infectious farther than a few feet from the patient, or the poison. Dr. Haygarth's Letter, page 157.

he progress of the contagious malignant fever in
the metropolis, as effectually and beneficially as has
been done at Manchester.

8th May, 1801.

No. XCII.

*Account of the London School for the Indigent Blind.
By the Bishop of DURHAM.*

THE account of the Liverpool school, for the instruction of the indigent blind, has been inserted in the 8th Report of the Society, published in the latter end of the year 1798. The success which in that, and in other places, has attended every effort of benevolence to instruct the blind, and to make them useful and happy, induced some individuals to attempt, in the following year, to form such an establishment in the metropolis, as might not only be of use to the *indigent* blind, but also to others suffering from the loss of sight, so as to instruct them to increase their comfort by a greater degree of utility and occupation, in their progress through a scene of trial and probation, to an awful eternity.

A general meeting of subscribers was called on the 8th of January 1800; when resolutions were adopted for establishing, in the metropolis, A SCHOOL FOR THE INDIGENT BLIND. A president, two vice-presidents, and 12 other subscribers, were appointed a committee, to prepare a draft of regulations, and to engage a local situation for the school.

In an institution, eminently deserving of public support, it was not so difficult to obtain funds, and

to form a committee, as to secure a local situation, and engage proper instructors, for so novel an undertaking. In spite of the zeal of the committee, above six months intervened before the school could be opened.—It occupies part of the buildings formerly known by the name of the *Dog and Duck*, in St. George's Fields, and once applied to very dissimilar purposes. Five boys* were admitted on the 4th of August 1800; and in September, five more boys; their ages being from eight to fifteen years. Ineffectual inquiries had, in the mean time, been made after a teacher; until a person was obtained from the school at Liverpool. Fourteen more blind boys have since been admitted; leaving (after a deduction of the names of seven of them returned to their friends) a total of 17, at present in the school.

In December 1800, a second school was opened for the admission of girls, ten of whom are now in the school; one employed in making sash line, the others in spinning: their ages are from 12 to 20 years. Only one of them, and three of the boys, have turned out incapable of instruction.—The occupation of the boys is principally in basket-making; a trade easily learnt, requiring only a small stock to set up with, and possessing a very ready vent for its commodities. Much, however, of gain from work must not be expected, in the commencement of a school for the *blind*. There

* Where the child admitted is, at the time of the application for admission, chargeable to the parish, a weekly contribution towards the child's maintenance in the school is required of the parish: but not in other cases.

will inevitably be more waste of materials, and less progress of profit, in the infancy of such an establishment, than in that of other schools of industry. Some advancement, however, has been made ; and in the beginning of November last, ten of the boys, and four of the girls, had their tasks of earnings fixed ; with the condition, that they should be entitled to half of what they should earn beyond that sum. The earning of the scholars in the preceding week was £1. 17s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.;—of which weekly amount *six shillings and two-pence* were earned by Charlotte Crippin, a blind girl aged 14, and admitted to the school in January 1801. She is soon to be returned to her friends, as capable of earning her maintenance, with only 12 months instruction ; and notwithstanding the calamitous disadvantage of blindness.

It has been a circumstance of peculiar good fortune to the blind children admitted into this school, that their eyes are always examined by a very able and eminent oculist ;* and that, if any thing can be done for the recovery of their sight, they have the advantage of the best possible advice and assistance. It has also contributed to the success of the schools that, upon a vacancy of the secretaryship in July last, the Rev. Dr. Grindlay, at the unanimous request of the committee, accepted the appointment of secretary conjointly with that of chaplain ; for the connected duties of which he is peculiarly

* Mr. WARE,—the consulting surgeon to the school.—Mr. Ware and Mr. Houlston were two of the first promoters of this institution.

adapted by habits, character, and by his own domestic residence near the schools.

There were many circumstances, to render the school in St. George's Fields desirable, as a permanent establishment; and great exertions were made by several members of the committee to induce the city of London to give the school such an extension of term, as might justify the necessary additions and improvements in the buildings. These endeavours, however, proving fruitless, the committee applied to the Foundling Hospital; which has agreed to grant them half an acre of ground fronting Gray's-Inn-Lane, and at the north-east corner of the Foundling estate, on a building lease, at a moderate rent. The situation is airy, healthy, and open to public view and inspection; and the quantity of land is such, as to supply ample room not only for the working-sheds, but also for the play-ground of the scholars; and to afford a prospect of a permanent and extended establishment for the instruction of the blind, not only of the metropolis, but of any part of the kingdom.

The extent of this ground, in front to Gray's-Inn-Lane, is 140 feet; so as to promise the charity, *so long as the direction of it shall be honourable and unexceptionable*, a considerable advantage in attracting the public eye, and in offering itself to every passenger, as the object of inquiry and attention. There is another circumstance to be stated, of no small moment with those who in the appropriation of their charitable funds, look to *permanency and perpetuity*; which is, that the Foundling Hospital

has agreed, on certain terms, to give the school an extension of its lease for 999 years at a pepper corn rent. Whether the friends and guardians of the school will be able to fix proper buildings on their ground, and also to take advantage of this clause, so as to extend the benefits of the school to distant generations, and to afford instruction, occupation, and comfort, to the distressed blind, in future ages, must depend on the benevolence of the public. This is now solicited, in addition to that liberal subscription, which the zeal of those, who practically know the value of this charity, has willingly supplied for the commencement of the fund.

OBSERVATIONS.

To those in higher or more opulent stations of life, who are subject to the calamity of a privation or defect of sight, sympathy, and the natural impulse of the heart, will offer infinitely more powerful observations on this subject, and will afford stronger arguments in behalf of the indigent blind, than can by possibility be supplied by me. But I would ask of those who enjoy the inestimable blessing of sight,—who possess an advantage which many of their fellow-creatures are deprived of,—can they shew their sense of such a pre-eminence of benefit,—have they a better way of expressing their gratitude,—than by assisting in the instruction of the blind, and in rendering them comfortable in themselves, and useful to society;—so as to increase, at the same time, the amount of

individual happiness, and the aggregate of our general and national industry and welfare? It must be observed, example does much; and there are few instances of persons unoccupied, whether from helplessness or indolence, that their example has not contributed to infect others with *the disease of idleness*. To those, who visit the school for the blind, it will instantaneously occur, that industry so gay and cheerful,—so animated and contented,—as it appears in the blind who are there employed, must have an unvaried tendency to give energy to the dullest and most enervated mind, and to rouse it to activity and exertion.

And, in truth, the visitor will see nothing there to excite disgust or uneasiness, as to the forlorn situation of the blind persons, under the protection of the school. The task of the day speedily performed, and the wish and attention extended to further earnings for themselves,—the toil of their working hours relieved, and the vacancy of their hours of relaxation filled, by religious and moral songs, chanted by them to their own simple melodies,—and every moment enlivened by the natural thankfulness of the heart, for the comforts of which they partake, and the hopes they entertain,—these will produce much for the delight and improvement of the visitor, and offer no motives of alarm, or terror, even to the nervous and distempered mind.

The friends of the school do therefore invite the visits of the public.—They ask them to attend a spectacle, which affords a lesson of the comfort to

be derived from useful occupation ; they request them to patronise the school, and to encourage its trade, by purchasing good articles at a moderate price ; they solicit them to inspect the management of the charity and the application of its funds, and to decide from personal knowledge whether the conductors of it are, or are not, deserving of their confidence. And lastly, they intreat them, while they estimate how far it may be deserving of support, to consider not only the magnitude of benefit conferred on the scholars themselves, whose blank of existence is thereby filled up with useful employment, and its advantage to other individuals (to the rich as well as to the poor) in encouraging the blind to endeavour to be useful, contented, and happy ; but also to give credit, for the relief afforded to many poor families, by enabling their blind children almost, if not entirely, to maintain themselves ; and for the still greater service done to the community, in rescuing many forlorn persons from despondency and hopeless inactivity, in enabling them to contribute, among others, to the general funds of the country, and in rendering them honourable and beneficial examples of exertion and industry.

4th Feb. 1802.

No. XCIV.

Extract from an Account of several Charities at Kendal. By THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.

WHEN the high price of provisions, and the consequent pressure upon our poorer brethren, awakened the attention of other members of society in every part of the kingdom, a very liberal subscription was raised at Kendal in November 1799, for the declared purpose of assisting the labours of the industrious,—and of preventing the degrading and debilitating consequences of recurrence to parochial relief. In addition to the usual supply of soup to poor families at a reduced price, a cheap ordinary for children was opened, on the plan of that of Mr. Conyers, at Epping; having in view, not merely the immediate supply of the poor, but also the teaching of the girls * common cookery. The price for breakfast and dinner, for five days in a week, (Saturday and Sunday being excepted,) was 8d. ;—5d. for the five dinners, and 3d. for the breakfasts. This charity was extremely acceptable to the poor; and at one time the average number of persons, who partook of it, amounted to 160. But it happened that others, of an age beyond childhood, attended; and tho (it seeming

* The reader will find some remarks on this subject, by the Bishop of Killaloe, in p. 55 (No. VII.) of the Reports of the Dublin Society for the Poor.—The instruction given to the girls in this respect at the Kendal schools, is a very useful part of the education which they receive there.

impracticable to draw a precise line of admission) the price to them was raised to a shilling a week, yet the press, and consequent inconvenience, so much increased, that this part of the establishment was at length given up.

An inconvenience that attended the supply of soup (the irregularity of the demand for it, which occasioned sometimes a deficiency, and sometimes a waste or loss from the excess of the quantity made) was corrected by a simple and obvious mode, at the commencement of the next winter. A renewed subscription of £732. 11s. 6d. had been raised among the inhabitants in December 1800. As to applicants for soup, it was fixed that they should, on the Monday, pay for all they were to have in that week; and should then receive a ticket, specifying the quantity they were to be respectively entitled to; and upon the delivery of the soup, that the quantity should be marked off on the ticket. By these means, above 300 gallons of soup have been delivered, without any inconvenience, in the space of an hour; and the quantity required has been previously ascertained. What has been so disposed of, was sold at a penny a quart. If there was any surplus, it was purchased by casual applicants, at three-halfpence a quart; an increase of price which, at the same time that it assisted the funds of the charity, had the effect on the poor of enhancing their idea of the advantage, in being allowed by a weekly subscription, and by a ready money payment, to purchase the soup at a much cheaper rate.

As a general measure, operating to keep down the price of provisions, * and to prevent the markets being raised by successful speculation, the committee, in the spring, purchased and imported into the town above 30 tons of potatoes; to be stored up, for the purpose of feeding the markets, and keeping down the price of this necessary article of life. Whenever any temporary rise took place in the market, these were ordered to be sold to the poor, at a rate not exceeding 2s. a bushel; and an almost instantaneous effect was produced in the reduction of the price.

The precautions and remedies, which were adopted at Kendal in April, 1801, when an infectious fever had broke out among the poor there, are at the present moment *extremely deserving of the observation and imitation* of the inhabitants of the metropolis. The committee immediately turned their attention, not merely to the relief and restoration of the sick, but to the prevention of the

*In times of scarcity, the *money wages* of the labourer cannot keep pace with the enhanced price of the necessaries of life. This object, however, may be effected by a variation in the mode of compensation.—In some parts of Northumberland the year's wages of a servant, called a *Hind*, are as follows: three pounds in money; 32 Winchester bushels of oats; 24 ditto of barley; 12 ditto of pease; 4 ditto of wheat; one cow kept (and frequently found) by the master and permission to keep one pig, and from 6 to 10 hens; a sufficient quantity of ground wrought and manured to plant 3 or 4 bushels of potatoes, according to agreement; and house rent free, and coals led gratis. For this, in addition to his own labour, the hind finds a female servant to clean land, hoe turnips, and assist in hay and corn harvest, at eight pence a day.—This is *affluence*, compared with the situation of a *money* labourer, subsisting on weekly wages, and upon his credit at the baker's shop, and alehouse.

29th June, 1802.

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return of the disease by latent and uncorrected infection. A resolution was adopted of gratuitously whitewashing all the houses of the poor,* and different members of the committee undertook the inspection of the work in their respective districts. At the expense of £48. 10s. there were 820 habitations of the poor, in Kendal, thoroughly cleansed and purified from the danger of infection. Upon visiting several of the houses this day (August 10, 1801), I have had very great pleasure in observing, not only that they were all newly whitewashed,† but that, in consequence of it, they were much more neatly kept, and in far better condition, than they could otherwise possibly have been. In every dwelling-house I found there was put up a copy of

* The following is the form of the order of the committee. They are signed by the secretary, and addressed to the visitor of each ward.

“ _____ is requested to set the bearer to work in whitewashing the dwellings of the poor in the _____ ward,—he is desired to note in which house the workman begins, and that he does his work thoroughly; to take an account of those who will not admit him; and also to recommend the inhabitants to a thorough cleaning afterwards, in order to prevent febrile contagion from spreading.”

† As a proof how much personal and domestic benefit may be derived from whitewashing cottages, I state a circumstance, which I have been favoured with by Mr. Dougan, one of the members of our committee. A cottage in his neighbourhood had been extremely incommoded with fleas, and the adjoining cottage not at all subject to that inconvenience. Mr. Dougan ordered the first cottage to be whitewashed with quick lime. The result was that the evil was entirely removed from that cottage; but, as appeared afterwards, was transferred to the other, which had not had the benefit of being whitewashed; and which only could be relieved, by their submitting to the same beneficial operation.

Dr. Haygarth's rules, to prevent the spreading of infectious fevers.* These rules, transcribed from

* I have great pleasure in noticing the zeal which has, of late, actuated individuals, in every part of the united kingdom, to oppose their efforts to the ravages of INFECTIOUS FEVER. By a letter just received from Mr. Carr, of Leeds, I have the pleasure of knowing, that "the inhabitants of that town have subscribed most liberally, for the erection and support of a house, for the reception of those attacked by the *typhus* fever; which had for some time prevailed there, among the poorer classes; and which was already beginning to decrease in malignity."—The measures which are adopting in the different parts of the empire, for stopping the progress of this mitigated species of the PLAGUE do honour to our national character. In no instance have policy and humanity been united, with more success and effect, than in the *House of Recovery* at WATERFORD. In the course of the year 1801, the number of fever patients, admitted there, was 875: of these, 815 were cured, and dismissed in health; of the remaining number 36 remained in the house at the end of the year, and only 24 had died. For this immense magnitude of benefit, the total of expenditure (including not merely food, medicines, wine, salaries, and incidental charges, but also linen, woollen, furniture, and repairs) amounted only to the sum of £839. 3s 8½d.—This House of Recovery was opened in August 1799; and the benefits, which the experience of upwards of two years has evinced to result from its establishment, very strongly prove the necessity of giving it further encouragement and support. The scarcity and high price of provisions, during the former and great part of the last year, compelled vast numbers of the Irish poor, from different parts of the country, to resort to cities, and large towns for relief. Their habitations in Waterford were by these means much crowded; when, to add to their distress, an infectious fever prevailed, in a greater or lesser degree, in most parts of the united kingdom. The progress and fatal effects of this disorder were surprisingly checked in the city of Waterford, by the wise and seasonable relief administered by their House of Recovery. The number of applications for admission rendered it necessary to enlarge the original establishment, by hiring an house in the neighbourhood for convalescents. The benefits of this charity, affording such relief and comfort to the poor, and such a degree of security to the community at large, have not been

the reports of the society, I find, upon inquiry, have been printed by Mr. Pennington, an Alderman of Kendal, at his own expense, and by him distributed *gratis* to the poor.

Some of the same gentlemen who have so meritoriously exerted themselves in these charities, and in those of still greater value which relate to the *education** of the poor, have the additional merit of having undertaken to assist, in the reform and conduct of the parochial workhouse. This work is as yet in its infancy, and may make the subject of some future Report. At present, it is sufficient gratification to behold the earnestness, with which they have begun the work of introducing cleanliness, regularity, and discipline, into the house;

confined to the poor alone. Contagion has been stopped, in its fatal progress; and has been prevented from diffusing its deadly poison among the other classes of society. Two establishments in Ireland are already known to have been formed upon its model;—one in Cork, which was ready for patients in the beginning of November last; the other in Dublin, where, with the exemplary subscriptions of the Lord Lieutenant and the Secretary (I need not name the Earl of Hardwicke and Mr. Abbot) the funds for a Fever Institution at Dublin amounted, in a very short time, to the sum of £4290.

15th March, 1802.

* The Kendal schools have already been noticed in our Reports: the charity for supplying their poor with blankets, is the subject of one of the papers in the present number. Many other plans for the improvement of the morals and condition of the poor have been in contemplation at Kendal: in that of forming an order of merit, for the encouragement of proficiency in the schools, nothing more has been done as yet, than giving the children certificates of good behaviour, and a choice of the clothes to be purchased for them with their premiums. The proposed benefit society is not as yet established, upon the general system of enabling them to continue members of it for life.

and to observe the order, and attention of their proceedings, and the regularity, with which their weekly returns, the minutes of their committees, and the accounts of their expenditure, are kept and arranged.

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Such have been the labours and success of the friends of humanity at Kendal. To the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor, it will prove no moderate gratification that it has been the instrument, in this place, and we may humbly hope in some other instances, of stimulating minds, naturally benevolent, to exert themselves for the benefit of their fellow-creatures.

There is, in the inhabitants of the British Isles, a peculiar disposition to engage and employ their attention, in the conduct of public concerns, and in the management of useful charities. We see, in every county of the united kingdom, evidence of this,—in the attendance of magistrates, who do a great part of the most essential and most laborious business of the community,—not merely without emolument,—but at their own personal expense. We see proof of it in various other stations and situations of life. For some years past, I have had infinite pleasure, in observing the same spirit operating in a variety of forms, and diffusing vital energy and activity to many useful charities. I have been extremely gratified to view the satisfaction, with which the guardians of those institutions have proceeded in their labour of love; and the

willing punctuality, with which they have attended the meetings,—which to them (after the anxiety and pressure of business) were their coffee-house, their public amusement, and their supply of relaxation ; affording them, in interest and desire for the welfare of others, materials for reflection and converse, on their return to the domestic quiet of their own habitations.

I have also had *some* opportunities of comparing this species of gratification, with the sensations which the idle and unoccupied appear to derive, from the most refined and extravagant of our public amusements. It is not merely from the listless eye, and the exhausted attention, that we may deduce information,—but the tongue of the sufferer will sometimes unfold the secrets of *his prison house*, and will tell you, *that he receives no gratification there* ;—that he has no ear for music, no passion for the fine arts,—no delight in scenic representation,—no taste for theatrical composition,—but that (like the unclean spirit) he must wander from himself somewhere, he must frequent some public place or other, to fill up the vacuity of a wearied existence.

Happy, indeed, would it be for themselves, and for their country, if they knew this truth ;—that, in proportion as our occupations and amusements do, at the time, really engage and *interest* the attention, and as they do satisfy the reflection afterwards, they contribute most essentially to our happiness.—To what objects, and with what self-gratification, might not our national desire of

employment be extended, if this were universally known, and acknowledged. It is in the power of every individual, however humble and insignificant, and still more of the informed, the rich, and the powerful, to contribute to the happiness of those around them :—but in order to do much, and effectually, for the benefit of mankind, it should not be concealed that attention and industry are required ; and as the achievement and gratification are great and dignified, so are the labour and activity which must promise success in the attempt.

1st. Jan. 1802.

No. XCV.

Extract from an Account of the Measures taken, during the late Scarcity, for supplying the Poor with corned Herrings, and other cheap Fish. By THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.

THE pressure of the scarcity in the latter part of the year 1800, induced the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor to make exertions of every kind, which might have a tendency to increase the general supply, and economy, of the kingdom. Of all other means of relieving the deficiency of the markets, that of procuring a large quantity of herrings, and other salted fish, for the supply of the metropolis, appeared to offer the most unqualified and the most unexceptionable advantages. On the 15th of November, 1800, a plan, for supplying the metropolis with corned herrings, was laid by Mr. Colquhoun before the committee; which was summoned for the ensuing Saturday, to take measures for carrying it into execution. Mr. Nicholas Vansittart was requested, in the mean time, to solicit the Lords of the Treasury to give such directions to the Board of Excise with regard to the salt duties, as might prevent any interruption of the supply.

At the next meeting of the committee, Mr. Vansittart reported that the Board of Excise had received directions, to allow credit for the salt*

* I know no measure of internal policy more interesting, than that which has lately engaged the attention of Parlia-

used in curing herrings for *home consumption*, as well as for *exportation*; and for those cured in *bulk*, being first inspected, as well as for *barrelled* herrings. A select committee was immediately appointed, of which Mr. Vansittart was the chairman; and a subscription was opened in the committee, for carrying the plan into execution. A considerable sum was immediately subscribed by the members present: and it being afterwards stated that some individuals, who were not members of the committee, were desirous of contributing to the fund, the subscription was extended, and in the whole, the sum of £4,888. was subscribed.

The select committee published in the Edinburgh papers advertisements for proposals for the supply of corned herrings per thousand, to be delivered in London, on prompt payment. They also resolved, on very favourable terms, to supply

ment, respecting the duty on salt. As to the commutation of the duty, there may be difficulties in point of *finance*. Upon this I do not presume to give an opinion: but I will venture to assert, that the greatest national advantages would result from it;—and I beg leave to anticipate one objection,—that the benefit would not be appropriated entirely to the public, but would in great part go as an increase of emolument to those concerned in salt-works. This might, I apprehend, be remedied (I express myself, however, with diffidence) by fixing an assize on salt, and having a periodical return and publication of the price; and whenever it is above the assize, allowing the importation of it for a limited time, duty free. The West Indies and the Mediterranean would then furnish an inexhaustible supply:—and indeed the refuse coal at the mouth of our coal-pits would serve for making a great quantity of salt; the salt-water being brought to the place by a kind of aqueduct.

the small soup shop with herrings; to be retailed at a low price, which should be fixed up at the shop door. On the 29th of November, the first cargo arrived, containing 390,000 herrings. They were immediately announced for sale, which commenced on the 3d of December, and proceeded with as much rapidity as could have been wished. In the mean time, measures were taken for continuing the supply, at the price then fixed, of 3*s.* 4*d.* per hundred.

On the 20th Decembr, 1800, a fish-monger in London, agreed to supply the select committee with 20 tons of cod and haddock, per week, cured with duty-free salt, without guts and heads, at one penny a pound, to be delivered at Billingsgate. The contractor, from some cause, did not perform his contract; but it may be material to state the circumstance, as a ground of suggestion for a similar supply, which may not depend merely on the interest, or ability, of an individual.

On the 30th December 1800, the select committee gave notice of a further supply of 540,000 corned herrings, to be sold at different places engaged for that purpose in the metropolis; the price being 4*s.* per hundred, or two a penny. Some advance, however, having soon after taken place in the fishery near Edinburgh, occasioned partly by the increased demand for this article, the select committee, for a few days, suspended the orders for supply. Before the end of January, however, they gave directions for the purchase of several hundred barrels of red, and white, herrings; and in the beginning of February

for 482 barrels of salt cod at 33s. and 34s. a barrel, and 50 barrels of salt haddock at 28s. a barrel. The committee also directed its attention to the procuring of mackarel and pilchards from the western coast ; but they found the first of these to exceed in price ; and the latter, not to be in general acceptable ; or at least to require time and attention to introduce them as a common article of food.

On the 3d of July, 1801, the select committee came to resolutions for disposing of their remaining stock in hand ; so as to close the account of the subscribers. In the mean time the general committee of the society had felt very sensibly, how much they were indebted to Mr. Colquhoun, for the laborious and active part he had taken in the business throughout ; but, particularly, after Mr. Vansittart was obliged to withdraw himself from the committee, on account of his appointment as Secretary of the Treasury. They therefore shewed him a mark of respect, of which in several years there have been only two instances ; and came to an unanimous resolution, that he should be elected a member * of the society, and of the general committee, for life.

The stock remaining in hand has been since dis-

* I have great pleasure in adding a copy of this testimonial of respect to my friend, Mr. Colquhoun.—“ At a meeting of the committee of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor on Friday, 3d July, 1801.—Read the following resolution of the last general committee.—“ Resolved unanimously,” “ That in consideration of the great service rendered to the public by Patrick Colquhoun, Esq. and as a compliment to him for his unremitting and successful attention to the supply of fish for the poor of the metropolis, during the pressure of the

posed of at a reduced price, to some of the salesmen who had retailed those articles to the poor in the preceding winter; so that it is hoped it will go, in some degree, to relieve the poor, as well as to supply the market. Upon preparing the accounts, it appears that above three millions of herrings, and a large quantity of pilchards, and corned cod fish, have been purchased by the committee, for the supplying of the metropolis during the preceding winter; and that they have been sold at prices, which must have made them an essential charity, during the period of scarcity: the whole loss and expense notwithstanding the general disadvantages from the *novelty* and nature of the undertaking, amounting only to the sum of £687. 10s. 8d;* being not quite one-sixth of the money subscribed.

" preceding winter, he be ballotted for, at the next monthly
 " meeting of the committee, for election as a member of
 " the Society, and of the general committee, for life; and
 " that this resolution be printed at the end of the report of
 " the herring committee.—And a ballot being taken,—
 " PATRICK COLQUHOUN, Esq. was unanimously elected
 " a member of this Soeiety, and of the general committee,
 " for life."

* The reader may probably wish to see the account of loss and gain upon the different kinds of fish supplied by the committee.

	£. s. d.
Loss on corned herrings	- - 73 3 6½
— on pilchards	- - 38 15 1½
— on mackarel	- - 100 8 10
— on dried cod	- - 233 5 1
	<hr/>
Gain on the red herrings	445 12 6½
— on the barrelled cod	4 9 4½
	<hr/>
Difference	100 13 1½
	<hr/>
	344 19 5

OBSERVATIONS.

This short account is submitted to the public, in the hope of drawing attention to the great benefit which may be derived from the cultivation of the fisheries on the British coasts.—In the present instance, the mere tonnage of the fish, brought into the market by the herring committee, does not form the whole of the account: the quantity which others were thereby induced to bring, and the increase and force that was given to the general current of supply, must be taken into the estimate; and it will be found to have produced a benefit, of above five times the original amount, of what was actually purchased by the herring committee. It hath also had the effect of removing ancient prejudices, and of introducing among the poor the use of *corned fish*; which now continues to be sold, in every part of the metropolis,* to a considerable amount; and with the necessary effect of reduction in the price of butcher's meat.

With PEACE happily restored to Europe, the period is advancing, when there will be many sailors and soldiers out of employ:—men not habituated to even and monotonous labour, but accustomed to the vicissitude and lottery of naval or military enterprise; and therefore adapted to give spirit and success to the speculation of fisheries, at the same time that they may continue prepared to stand

* I am informed that *corned herrings* are now sold in many chandlers' shops in the metropolis, and are coming into general use among the labouring class.

forward as the defenders of their country, if adverse circumstances should again require it. As a supply of proper employment and support at the close of the war, as an honorary engagement of service for our next trial of national strength and resources,—and as a preservation from idle and vicious courses of life,—let us offer to our brave defenders every liberal and honourable encouragement, in the fisheries on our coast. We must, for our own sakes as well as for theirs, procure for them suitable means of occupation and subsistence. Should that duty be neglected, the mischief, and the demerit, are ours. We purchase the consequences by our own misconduct.

If any time could exist, in which it was requisite that these considerations should be impressed upon the mind with any additional force, the present moment is the peculiar period, in which a variety of potent arguments would occur. After more than a seven years contest with an active and powerful enemy, triumphant on the European continent, while we have been victorious at sea, we behold *a doubtful peace established in the world*;—doubtful,—not because it can be the interest of any power to infringe it,—but because, spirits agitated and disturbed, minds irritated by contest, and eyes deluded by worldly views, look to victory and dominion, as the great and abundant sources of prosperity and permanency of empire.

The truth, however, will some time or other be generally admitted, that the strength and security of nations depend, not on the misery and imbecility

of adjoining or relative states, but on their own internal economy and wisdom. If we do our utmost to improve and effectually to apply our resources; and to increase the comfort and welfare, the morals and industry, of the great mass of the inhabitants of Britain and Ireland,—insulated and protected as we are,—we may hear with indifference the threats of external foes:

“ Come the four corners of the world in arms,
“ And we will meet them.”—

The present is a period of great events. With less change in our political hemisphere than we have witnessed in the preceding ten years, England and France may have a call for their united strength for the purpose of mutual defence.—In lieu, therefore, of violent and unremitting efforts in a bloody and painful conflict, when (with pride, indeed, may France and England both exclaim) Europe stood aghast at our exertions, let us now enter on a more pleasing and beneficial contest.—Let us try, which can best employ the advantages of peace to the welfare of their respective countries.—With us, let the condition of the cottager be improved, his virtues promoted, and his offspring educated:—Let the natural sources of wealth in these islands,

— AGRICULTURE AND THE FISHERIES, †—

* The superior advantage of agriculture and the fisheries, to every other source of national wealth and prosperity, is ably and forcibly illustrated, in a pamphlet on “ the Essential Principles of the Wealth of Nations ;” published by Becket, in 1797.

† If it should appear to be practicable to commute entirely, or even in part, *the duty upon salt*, the benefits would be great and extensive; not only in the fisheries, but

receive public and individual encouragement.—Let us check the progress of vice and irreligion.—And having thus done our duty to our CREATOR, and to our fellow creatures,—we may repose with unshaken confidence in the GOD OF PEACE AND MERCY ; and be assured that, *while we do not forfeit his favour*, he will be, as for ages he has been, our guard and our defender.

But this is not all.—Let us breathe out our prayers and good wishes, for the welfare and tranquillity of our gallant enemies. If, on their part, any hard and unkind sentiments can be supposed to exist, let us melt them down by the warmth of Christian kindness ; and shew them the excellence of our religion, by the nature of its effects.

France has bled for years in every vein.—Its agriculture interrupted, its commerce annihilated,

in agriculture, in manufactures, and in the preserving of animal food.—In the last of these, the saving in articles of subsistence would be very considerable.—In manufactures, it would afford great advantages.—In agriculture, it would facilitate the introduction of many species of improved management, adopted in other parts of the world, but excluded from England by the existence of the duty on salt : such, I mean, as the use of it for cattle, particularly for sheep ; and the application of it in preserving hay, and in the manure of land. Of the last of these, it may not be generally known that, from circumstances, the coarse salt of our salt works is exported to foreign countries, and our native soil not improved by it.—As to our fisheries, the salt duties, and even still more the regulations necessary for the collection of a tax which bears so immense a proportion to the intrinsic value of the article on which it is laid, amount almost to a prohibition of (what may be termed) THE MARINE HARVEST OF MILLIONS OF ACRES which surround our coasts, and of thus benefiting by the natural resources of the country.

5th April, 1802.

its manufactures extinguished, and its internal security destroyed.—MAY PEACE RESTORE TO THEM ALL THOSE BLESSINGS! and may England honor and exalt herself, by excluding every selfish and mistaken consideration, which might biass her upon this subject!—Well cultivated, well regulated, and enjoying its proportionable and natural amount of commerce and manufactures, France will be more useful, and less dangerous, to the civilized world, than if, excluded from those benefits, she be driven by internal circumstances to wage perpetual war, and be compelled to adopt a noxious and necessitous system of hostility.

Let us contend, therefore, in the arts of peace. Let us strive which shall possess the greatest number of thriving, industrious, and virtuous inhabitants.—Instead of fields of blood and misery, let us rival each other in the extent and abundance of our harvests.—In lieu of ships of war, and well manned fleets, let us have extended commerce abroad ; —let us have, at home, fisheries, which shall reap the excess of wealth, that Providence hath cast upon our coasts. We shall then find that, for hospitals for the sick and wounded, there shall flourish, throughout the land, manufactures to supply the sailor, the fisherman, and the agriculturist ; and to participate in that abundance, which commerce, the fisheries, and agriculture can, for ever produce.—The threats of every foreign power will then be vain against that state, which hath so securely placed its foundation on a rock.

30th March, 1802.

No. XCVI.

Extract from an Account of the Harborne Penny Club for supplying poor children with clothing. By George Simcox, Esq.

IN March 1799, a penny club was formed at Harborne, a populous village near Birmingham, containing about 1200 inhabitants; the greater part of whom are poor nailors. Its object is, by a weekly payment of the children contributed out of their earnings, and by the contributions of honorary members in aid of their funds, to clothe the children who attend on the Sunday schools there, and who also contribute their weekly penny to the fund of the society.

Previous to the establishment of Sunday schools at Harborne, the children were generally brought up in the grossest ignorance; and paid very little attention to the Christian sabbath. The change produced by this institution in the habits of the children, and the general improvement in the appearance of the parish, have been so obvious, that the most superficial observer cannot fail to remark it; while the heart that is expanded by Christian benevolence, finds in't a source of pleasure, which at once repels the arguments of theoretical objectors.

The first distribution of clothing was made at Lady Day 1801. There was then in the hands of the Treasurer (including interest at 5 per cent.

which he has very liberally allowed) the sum of £130; with which the managers of the charity have contrived to find clothing for more than 200 children, at an average of about 13s. each. For 82 girls they provided neat cotton gowns, to which two ladies in the neighbourhood added caps and neck handkerchiefs; so that all the girls appeared at church on the following Sunday, uniformly and neatly dressed, presenting a spectacle truly interesting. For the 31 youngest boys there were suits of clothes,—for 11 others, coats and waistcoats, and coats for the bigger boys, many of whom were then quitting the school.

One effect of connecting this penny club with the Sunday schools, was the immediate increase of applications for admission into the latter. At that time there were only 82 girls. In a few weeks they amounted to 107; all of whom are contributors to the penny club. A similar addition is taking place in the boys' school.—Another effect has been the increased industry of the children at their trades. They have laboured diligently, to purchase for themselves the other articles of their dress; such as shoes, stockings, &c. A third advantage is in the incitement it produces to regular attendance and good conduct in the schools. By the regulations of the institution, if any children are dismissed for improper behaviour in the schools, they forfeit their share of the money in the funds; not only the benefit they would otherwise receive from the subscription of honorary members, but even the portion which they have themselves

contributed.—A fourth consequence is the promotion of economy among the parents ; by shewing them how much may be done by small savings ; while at the same time it imposes a kind of obligation to endeavour to provide decent clothing for the other parts of their family that are not in the school. The present number of boys, who are members of the Harborne * penny club, is 128 ; and of girls, 107 ; that of honorary members, 125, who each pay their penny or more a week.

OBSERVATIONS.

The advantages arising to society in general and to the poor in particular, from habitual cleanliness, and a decent appearance, are so obvious, that they need little explanation. It is only requisite to contrast the general health and conduct of poor children, kept clean, and decently clothed, with those who are in dirt and rags, to be convinced

* In the parish of Painswick, in Gloucestershire, a similar institution was established in 1786, and another in Sutton Caulfield —In both of those parishes they continue to flourish, and have produced the same beneficial effects as at Harborne —Lord Harcourt has formed a club at Nuneham, in Oxfordshire, to which such of his labourers, as are approved of by him, pay one penny each per week. To this his lordship adds the like sum. This forms a fund, which they may have recourse to, upon any exigency. If they misbehave themselves, or draw out their subscriptions on frivolous pretences, they can only take their own part without touching Lord Harcourt's. In case of death, their funeral expenses are defrayed ; and the remainder (which includes both the labourer's, and Lord Harcourt's subscription) goes to the family of the deceased. It is not an uncommon thing for hard-working men to possess £ 5. or £ 6. in this fund. Sir F. Eden on the Poor, Vol. I. p. 615.

that the means * and observation of external cleanliness minister very essentially to the promotion of the moral virtues.

Whilst dirty and ragged children, on the sabbath day, are idling about in lanes and fields, breaking the farmers' hedges, engaged in every species of noisy and mischievous play, and frequently profaning the hallowed name of their CREATOR, the others are to be found in their duty, at church, or at home: and, in the weekdays, they are adding their proportion to the general stock, which is accumulated by the effects of industry. The poor children of the parish of Harborne are exerting themselves, by nail-making or otherwise, to save a penny for the club, and so to provide clothing for themselves; and at the same time the poor children of other parishes are employed, in manufacturing the materials, for those very garments to be purchased. Thus may villages be supplied with industrious and respectable inhabitants; who shall transmit to their children, and their children's children, the same invaluable habits.

When Sunday schools, and other benevolent institutions, do not produce their proper and legitimate fruits, the defect will be found to originate in the want of that attention to conduct and management, which is the peculiar duty of the higher, and more enlightened orders of society;

* Decent clothes contribute to a child's washing and combing frequently, a practice too generally neglected by the poor.

and is the source, from which real and essential benefit has been derived to the parish of Harborne. Upon conduct and management, under the blessing of GOD, the success of every charitable institution must depend. In this respect the parish of Harborne hath been, and still is, highly favoured. The boys schools has had constant attention and superintendance of Thomas Green Esquire (a gentleman of considerable property in this parish) and of a young gentleman, now educating for holy orders; and making that excellent preparation for his sacred function, that he has for some years taken upon him almost the whole charge of one school, and now continues to attend it during the period that his general residence at the university doth allow.

In the girls' schools, which are in the highest order of discipline, every thing has been produced by the unwearied attention of a lady, resident there, and her daughters. For some years back she has spent many hours in the care of the children, every Sunday; she has personally attended them to church, and she has bestowed unwearied pains in forming their manners, and their moral and religious character. Her place in the schools is now supplied by the eldest daughter; while the two younger sisters have taken the charge, at the mother's house, of a number of the children, whom they attend to church, but have not sufficient room to accommodate in the schools.

1st March, 1802.

No. XCVII.

Extract from an Account of the Schools for poor Children at Weston, near Bath. By Miss Masters.

IN the year 1795, a free-school, for the education of the children of the industrious poor, in the village of Weston, near Bath, was established there by a lady ; who has since succeeded, in forming and supporting four other similar schools, in the same village. The children are admitted at a *very early age*. They are kept very clean and neat ; and, as soon as possible, are taught the Lord's Prayer, the *Gloria Patri*, and the Catechism. Their instruction proceeds until they can read, knit, mend and make family apparel, and do all sorts of plain work. They attend the church regularly on Sundays ; and those who are able to join in singing psalms in the church ; forming themselves in a circle round their patroness, and vying with each other in exemplary decency of conduct. Her allowance for each child's schooling, is 3*s.* a quarter ; a sum comparatively small, but yet supplying a very useful and acceptable charity, and contributing to the comfortable maintenance of five widow women ; who thereby not only receive £8. or £10. a year each (the five schools containing near 80 children) but are also put in the way of receiving some additional benefit, from the credit of their situation in the schools.

I said that the children were admitted at *a very early age*.—The reader will be surprised when I add, that they attend the schools so early, as at two years old : each of the little ones being put under the tutelage and care of one of the elder children, and, as soon as they can speak, being taught the Lord's Prayer, and to be attentive and quiet during school hours. Their parents are, in consequence of their admission to the schools, enabled to go out to work, and to carry their labour to the best and most advantageous market.

She never keeps a girl in the schools after the age of 12. By that time they are sufficiently advanced in reading, and in the use of the needle, to be of very great benefit at home ; or, if not wanted there, to obtain advantageous situations in service. None of the children are allowed to take any pay for sewing-work for their poor neighbours. That is all done *gratis* : and a useful charity is thereby engrafted on the original plan ; the children assisting in mending and making for all the industrious poor of the village. One of the primary objects of this lady is thus attained ;—the making of them, and of the other poor of the village, habitually kind and affectionate to each other. When, however, a girl can read and work *well*, and is able to make a shirt complete, she is then allowed to take employ from strangers, and to make a profit of her acquired skill in needlework.

In 1795, the time that this lady first began her system of education at Weston, there was only an evening service at the parish church on Sunday;

and that so ill attended, as to afford little encouragement to add a service in the morning. The regular and uniform attendance, however, of so great a number of children in the church, the introduction of psalmody by them, their leading the psalm-singing of the church, arranged in a choral body around their beloved protectress,—and the consequent attendance of many of the parents and friends of the children, did so increase the congregation, that a successful application was made to the worthy rector, to add a morning service. The parish church is now well and respectably attended twice every Sunday. A few years back, many of the parishioners never even entered the church doors: the sabbath was considered merely as a day of leisure and riot. At present, small as is the parish, such is the regular attendance on divine service, that forty-four poor persons attended yesterday, being Easter-day, to receive the sacrament.

As soon as the children are old enough to understand what they read, this lady gives them prayer books, and instructs them how to use them at church. They follow the clergyman in the responses; and in such good order, that a look from her is sufficient, without a word being said, during divine service. The whole of the Sunday she devotes to them: she hears and explains to them the catechism, and makes them repeat the collects; but she provides no other books of religious instruction than the Bible and the Prayer Book, and some selections from them; reserving

the rest for oral communication. Of her method of communicating information on religious subjects, I can repeat an instance that occurred only last week.—A girl in her schools had just attended the funeral of her father, a pious and honest labourer at Weston. The lady took this opportunity of giving the children a lesson, on the resurrection, and a future state. “That child’s father,” said she, “was on Tuesday last placed in the grave: but he was a good and religious man; and we have a well-grounded hope that, through the merits of Christ, he is in a state of glory and happiness. He is now, indeed, separated from his child; but, if she is good and virtuous, and if she performs her duty to God, and to her neighbours here, she will be received into the same glorified and happy state, and dwell with her father, and with the spirits of just men made perfect, to all eternity.

OBSERVATIONS.

The infant age at which this lady receives the children, and the very early period at which she returns them to their families, or enables them to go into service, are features peculiar, in some degree, to the schools established, at Weston, by Mrs. HOCKER;—the lady, to whom that village is so greatly indebted for the instruction and education of youth, for the comfort of mature and advanced life, and for the religious improvement of all. Those, who have attended much to the instruction of children, have had frequent occasion

to observe that they are much more liable to good and bad impressions, *at a very early age*, than any general system of education in this country seems to provide for. Many young persons, as well in low as in high life, prove decidedly vicious and hopeless, for want of an early and active occupation, in something useful and satisfactory.

If I were to propose one pre-eminent object, with which hardly any other could be placed in competition, I should name EDUCATION;—I do not mean that which only clothes and decorates the mind and body *with tinzel ornament, and with imported frippery*; and increases the lustre of appearance in proportion to the decay of principle,—as if, not merely in poetic fiction enforcing a lesson of morality on this transitory scene of life,—but that, in verity, and reality of existence, *all the world were a stage, and we its inhabitants were all merely players*;—and that the true and appropriate preparation of life, were to fit us for no other duty or occupation, than to fill with grace and dignity a place in its pageantry,—to act a part in some vain and splendid exhibition,—and then be seen no more.

To supply principle, to induce active industry, to promote the love of God and of our neighbour, and to prepare us for our duty in our allotted station of life,—these are objects of attainment to the rich, as well as to the poor;—objects, which attained (however lost and hopeless may be the mature age of many in every class of life) will for ever supply renovated youth and unexhausted

vigour to the political body, and will protract to a distant period,—otherwise beyond hope,—the duration and prosperity of this favoured empire.

It is worthy of observation, that the supply of these schools is not fed by the overflowings of affluence ; but by the prudent and self-denying economy of a small, and of a very limited, income aided by the subscriptions of the rector of the parish, and of a few personal friends of Mrs. Hocken. The great sacrifice in undertakings of this nature *where one individual ventures singly to take the charge of so large an establishment,* is time and attention but, in the present instance, there must also have been a considerable self-denial in what is usually termed “gratification ;” in order to obtain, with means limited and inconsiderable, objects so desirable and satisfactory.

To those, however, who are inclined to try the experiment on the scale of *a single school*, supported either by one individual or by two or three friends I can venture to affirm that they will find it a matter neither of expense or trouble ; and that of all the amusements *they pay for*, this will be the most economical and productive. The union of any three ladies, in this work of pious charity, will, at the expense of £4. a year to each of them, afford education to 20 children,—will give comfort, relief and attachment, to almost as many poor families,—will assist the present, and improve the rising generation,—and will, at the same time, provide for some poor and honest widow* those means of

* I will venture to recommend this mode of patronage

occupation and livelihood, without which she might have been compelled to be a burthen to herself and the parish.

There are some devout and well-intentioned persons, who adopt a system, which rather seeks to mortify the soul by acts of penance, than to occupy it in works of utility ;—a system, that seems to attempt to extinguish the appetites and desires which our Creator has implanted in us, instead of labouring to correct their evil propensities, and to apply their potent influence to beneficial purposes.—Are we still to learn, that neither the appetites of man, or the pleasures of sense, were bestowed in vain?—that our passions and affections were designed, not to be the seducers to vice, but the incitements to virtue? not to be the destroying tempest, but the *essential elements of life*, without which all would be a dead and destructive calm? “In order to dispose the heart to devotion” (says a pious and eminent bishop*) “the active life is to be preferred to a life of contemplation. TO BE DOING GOOD TO MANKIND, DISPOSES THE SOUL MOST POWERFULLY TO DEVOTION.” The poor are designed to excite our liberality,—

to those who have, in instances, taken infinite pains to provide for some distressed woman, by fixing her for life, as a *charge* on the funds of some charitable institution. They will find, upon a minute and correct calculation, that, without a regular canvass of the governors of a charity to induce them to act contrary to their trust, and with less expense, or discredit, they might have satisfactorily attained their object, by setting her up in some country school, to instruct the poor children around her.

* Bishop Wilson.

the miserable, our compassion,—the sick, our assistance,—and the ignorant, our instruction.”—To this allow me to add, as a comment, the consideration of what has been done at Weston.—The benefit there, is not confined to the succession of those who are preserved and educated in the schools: the effects may be traced as a salutary stream, pervading every part of the parish.—The church is more frequented, the sabbath better observed, the cottager more thriving and comfortable, his family better clothed, and every individual improved by the example of those, who have received benefit from these schools.

19th April, 1802.

No. XCVIII.

Extract from an Account of the Repository at Manchester for the benefit of persons reduced in their circumstances. By Dr. PERCIVAL.

IN March 1801, there was formed at Manchester a repository* for disposing of articles of work for the benefit of persons reduced in their circumstances. It owes its origin in part to the account of a similar institution at Bath, but it is more extended in its plan ; and it has the additional merit of furnishing sets of childbed linen, for the month, to women who are recommended by the subscribers, as deserving of that part of the charity.

The principal object of the repository is to give assistance to well-educated persons, who have been reduced in their circumstances by sickness or misfortune; and to provide for them the means of earning a livelihood, without degrading them from the rank, or situation, which they hold in society. To accomplish this purpose, convenient apartments are opened, in which are received and sold any works of taste, elegance, or utility, adapted to the place and mode of sale. To every article, when deposited, a ticket is affixed, expressing the price ; a number is added at the repository, under which it is registered in the book kept at the repository. The name of the proprietor, or (if that be con-

* This is taken from the Report of the Institution, lately published by the ladies who superintend it.

cealed) some private or distinguishing mark, is delivered in with each article, and the mark annexed to the ticket.

Two of the visitors of the repository attend, in monthly rotation, every Monday morning, from ten to twelve o'clock, to take in articles of work, and to account with the parties for what has been sold. The owners may either apply in person, or by deputy. From the amount of each article disposed of, one penny in the shilling is deducted, to answer, in part, the expenses of the institution. The residue is defrayed by subscription. The childbed linen, lent out to poor married women, is partly supplied by ladies, who make the linen, as presents to the institution; and who have also chiefly supported another useful branch of the charity; by preparing and contributing articles of apparel for the poor, which are sold cheap at the repository to such of the subscribers, as wish to present them to any of their indigent and deserving neighbours.

The subscriptions * received by this institution, from the time of its establishment on the 9th of March 1801, to the 9th April 1802, amount to £92. 12s.;—the benefactions, to £20. 19s. 6d.;—the donations in articles for sale, to £67. 8s. 4½d.—and the cash collected in the box at the door to £5. 1s. 11d. During the same period, 22 sets of childbed linen have been lent out, and 9433 articles have been sold at the repository, for which the sum of £1475. 17s. 4½d. has been received. And

* The subscriptions do not exceed half a guinea each.

it is indeed a gratifying circumstance, that (exclusive of £17. 15s. 11d. paid for furniture) the whole cost and outgoing of this charity,—so soothing to distress,—so encouraging to industry,—and so extensive in its relief,—should amount only to £62. 9s. 9½d., the total of expenditure for the first thirteen months of this establishment.

OBSERVATIONS.

Such is the plan of the Manchester repository. To the enumeration of its more *direct* benefits, it may not be improper to add, that this institution is adapted to excite the ingenuity, the industry, and the zealous attention, of young persons to the noblest of all purposes, CHARITY. They here find a ready sale for their little works of art, and may either assign the produce to the common fund, or employ it themselves in the alleviation of distress. Benevolence is thus awakened and encouraged, not as a mere sentimental emotion of the heart, but as a steady and efficient principle of action.

Another collateral advantage of this undertaking arises from the opportunity which it affords of bringing to the notice of persons, able and willing to administer relief, objects under depression and want, who might otherwise have remained unknown. Modest merit, amongst those who have experienced some of the refinements of prosperity, generally seeks concealment under suffering. By this institution it may be presented to view, without wounding the feelings of any individual. And

it may be stated, as an interesting fact, that during the past year many affecting cases have occurred, which in this way called for the exercise both of sympathy and liberality.

An institution so humane in its object, and so successful in its execution, has a just title to the patronage and imitation of an enlightened public. This account is, therefore submitted to their perusal, in the hope of its contributing not only to the support of this, but to the establishment of similar institutions ; by the evidence it affords of the benefits which have resulted from the **MANCHESTER REPOSITORY**, in the promotion of arts, industry, and the most judicious philanthropy.

May 17th, 1802.

No. XCIX.

Extract from an Account of the Institution, for investigating the nature and cure of Cancer. By THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.

IN June 1801, there was formed in London an institution for investigating the nature and cure of CANCER ; a disease to which the rich, as well as the poor, are liable ; but which seems to bear more hardly on the latter, as wanting that alleviation of pain, and that degree of attention and assistance, which an evil so hopeless, and so aggravated, must require. Dr. Denman, whose medical practice has placed him very much in the way of knowing and seeing the dreadful consequences of this disease among the female sex, had the merit of proposing a meeting on the subject, and has since been a most active member of this charity. A committee of superintendance, consisting of 21 gentlemen, has been appointed, together with a medical committee, to direct the medical affairs of the institution. This committee consists at present of 14 professional men of the first eminence.* Each committee possesses the power of

* The members of this committee are Dr. Gisborne (President of the College of Physicians), Mr. Long (Master of the College of Surgeons), Sir George Baker, Bart. Dr. Baillie, Dr. Heberden, Dr. Hunter, Dr. Sims, Dr. Willan, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Blizzard, Mr. Cline, Mr. Home, Mr. Pearson, and Mr. Sharp.

electing their own members, and of increasing the number to a limited extent. Dr. Denman is the secretary of the medical committee, and the person to whom all communications, on the subject of the institution, are to be sent. There are already upwards of 50 corresponding members * in diffe-

* The following queries have been prepared under the direction of the medical committee, and ordered to be sent round to the corresponding members :

1. What are the diagnostic signs of a cancer?
2. Does any alteration take place in the structure of a part, preceding that more obvious change which is called cancer? if there does, what is the nature of that alteration?
3. Is cancer always an original and primary disease, or may other diseases degenerate into cancer?
4. Are there any proofs of cancer being an hereditary disease?
5. Are there any proofs of cancer being a contagious disease?
6. Is there any well-marked relation between cancer and other diseases? if there be, what are those diseases to which it bears the nearest resemblance, in its origin, progress, and termination?
7. May cancer be regarded at any period, or under any circumstances, merely as a local disease? or, does the existence of cancer in one part, afford a presumption, that there is a tendency to a similar morbid alteration, in other parts of the animal system?
8. Has climate, or local situation, any influence in the rendering the human constitution more or less liable to cancer, under any form, or in any part?
9. Is there any particular temperament of body more liable to be affected with cancer than others? and if there be, what is that temperament?
10. Are brute creatures subject to any disease, resembling cancer in the human subject?
11. Is there any period of life absolutely exempt from the attack of this disease?
12. Are the lymphatic glands ever affected primarily in cancer?
13. Is cancer under any circumstances susceptible of a natural cure?

rent parts of the world: and the object of this society being to draw into one focus every information, as to symptom or remedy, which can be obtained, the number of corresponding members will of course be unlimited; and a place in the list will be open to any professional man (in any part of the world) who is recommended by any member of the medical committee.

The subscriptions, including a donation from some of the life governors of the Infant Asylum, amount at present to about £300.; which has been already invested in the purchase of stock. The donation of 30 guineas constitutes a governor for life. Any benefaction,* however, is received with acknowledgement; and without expectation of its being repeated, unless the donor shall, at any time, think fit. To the attendance of patients at their own houses, it is to be hoped the charity will soon be competent; and a regular register of cases, and of the effects of the remedies applied, will then be commenced. But as it is known that in poor families, when one of the members is afflicted by cancer, it is absolutely impossible that they should be supplied with the means even of decent and tolerable cleanliness, it is in contemplation that, as soon as the funds of the charity will authorize it, a house shall be hired for the sole reception of

* Benefactions are received by the Treasurers, Stephen Aisley, Esq. and Thomas Philip Hampson, Esq. by the Secretary, and by the following bankers; Down, Thornton, and Co.— Glynn and Co.— Hoares,— Drummonds,— Ransoin, Morland, and Co.— Dorset, Wilkinson, Berners, and Co.— and Devaynes, Dawes, Noble, and Co.

cancerous patients: to be admitted for a certain period without any expense, and afterwards, in peculiar cases, to be continued at a limited and moderate charge; so as to relieve the poor from a burthen, not merely exceeding their means of expenditure, but requiring a constancy of attention, incompatible with their call to business, or daily labour for their support.

When such an house shall be established, it is intended that there shall be a resident apothecary, competent by his integrity, his intelligence, and his industry, to make the experiment of any mode of cure, which it may be thought proper to adopt: and that a physician and surgeon shall be elected, (not for life, but for three, five, or seven years) to whom some acknowledgement shall be made, for extraordinary attention to the objects of the institution. No experiments are, however, to be made, nor any new medicine tried, except by the express authority of the medical committee.

OBSERVATIONS.

In the long train of diseases to which human nature is subject, no one is attended with more hopeless misery than that which is denominated cancer, whatever part of the body may be the seat of it.* This occurs far more frequently than is generally supposed; and a calamity so pitiable as that of persons afflicted with cancer, in any rank

* These observations, and part of this account, are extracted from Dr. Denman's address to the public on this interesting subject.

or situation in life (all being alike subject to them) it is hardly possible to imagine ; their sufferings being aggravated by the present insufficiency of medicine, to afford any proportionate relief. For, setting aside the benefits that are obtained by the use of those means, which give a short respite to the anguish which such patients endure, there is no physician, nor any medical man of reputation, who would hesitate to admit that his knowledge of any method, by which this disease may be prevented, or even its progress retarded, is very defective ; and that, when it is confirmed, he does not entertain even an hope of curing it. In fact, little is at present known of cancer, but as *an incurable disease* ; and after a great number of trials and attempts to discover a method of cure, the faculty seems to have been reduced to a state of despondency ; as if both science and art were exhausted, or were unequal to the difficulties they have to encounter.

It has, however, pleased God, that means should be discovered for the cure of diseases, which were once thought incurable. We ought, therefore to hope that a remedy may at length, be found out for cancer ; and, with such hope, it is the duty of medical men to exert their faculties, for the investigation of the nature and cause of them, and for the discovery not only of the means of *relief*, but of *cure*. The experiments which have been hitherto made, seem not only to have been imperfectly conducted, but their results have been ill recorded. In the present enlightened state of medicine, both

these things would certainly be rectified, and new experiments might be suggested, to obtain this most desirable end. But the duties of general practice perpetually interrupt the attention of those, who have capacity, and inclination, to pursue this object, with the energy it requires. The institution, for the reception of patients afflicted with cancer, is therefore formed, not merely with a design of affording an asylum for the distressed, but professedly for the purpose of experiment, and discovery. It may also be reasonably presumed, that, in this research for the cure of cancer, more accurate knowledge, and more efficacious methods, of curing some other diseases will be discovered. Nor ought it to be passed in silence, that every medical man to whom this institution has been mentioned, has expressed his approbation of it, and his determination to support its establishment.

28th May, 1802.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

The BISHOP of DURHAM's Charge to the Churchwardens of the Diocese of Durham, delivered at his Visitation in July and August, 1801.

THE peculiar circumstances of the present times seem to impose upon me, in addition to the accustomed duty of a Visitation, the offering of my sentiments to you on the important duties of the office which you have undertaken.

By the statute 43d Elizabeth, you are, jointly with the parochial Overseers, appointed *Guardians and Protectors of the Poor*; and as such it is your duty to encourage the industry, to improve the condition, and to relieve the distresses, of a very numerous and deserving class of our fellow-subjects. For this great object, large parochial funds are entrusted to your management; in the confidence that you will "provide em'ployment for those " who *can* work, and relief and support for those " who *cannot*; that you will educate the *young*, and " place them in a way of obtaining an honest live- " lihood by their industry; and enable the *aged* to " close their labours and life in peace and com- " fort." For the detail of this part of your office, I must refer you to a charge to overseers of the poor published by the Society for bettering the condition of the poor, (a copy of which I have directed to be

delivered to each of you) and I shall confine myself chiefly to that appropriate branch of your duty, upon the regular execution of which so much of our religious and moral character, and so much of our national virtue and happiness, must depend.

But, before I enter on that part of the subject,

On the present situation of the poor. I wish to make a few observations on the present situation of the labouring poor: observations, not so immediately applicable to their situation, at

the time when the abovementioned charge to overseers was prepared.—The deficiency of two successive harvests produced the effect of raising the price of the most necessary articles of subsistence to an amount, to which the mere wages of the cottager, having a family of children, have been utterly inadequate. At the same time, a moment's consideration will shew, that it would have been not merely hazardous, but *absolutely impracticable*, to have raised the wages of labour to an amount, proportionate to the enhanced price of corn. It would have appeared that the manufacturer could not have proceeded to employ his men, nor the agriculturist to have tilled the ground for wheat, at such an enormous price of labour: and the consequence must have been, that the poor man, *prohibited by law* from taking that price for his labour which his employer could afford to give, must have resorted as a pauper to his parish; the manufactures of this island must have been stopped; and the cultivation of wheat have been checked in every part of this kingdom. What, however,

could have been done, has been effected,—by internal economy of food,—by external supply of rice, Indian meal, salted fish, and many other articles thrown, in large quantities, into general use and circulation: subscriptions to a large amount have been raised throughout the kingdom; and great exertions have been made by the rich, and (I observe it with the sincerest pleasure) excellent dispositions manifested by our poor necessitous brethren.

With the blessing of GOD, we may hope that the pressure of the scarcity will soon be diminished; and that we shall have been made wiser, better, and more affectionate to one another, by what has passed. But there is one circumstance, which, at the present, I am anxious to press upon the consideration of yourselves and the overseers; viz. that as, after two seasons of deficient crops, it cannot be supposed that one single harvest, however abundant, can have the effect of restoring plenty to the granaries of this country; so, with regard to the cottager, it must not be expected that, after the scarcity of these two seasons, and a consequent depression in his circumstances, and after the habit has been acquired of resorting by necessity to parish relief, he should be able to resume at once his former situation, without much judicious aid and encouragement from the other classes of society, to supply him with *renewed* strength and spirit. Attentions of this kind are peculiarly required at the present

What must
at present be
done for the
poor.

moment, to enable the cottager to get forward again in the world, and to raise him above the call of parochial relief, after he has been embarrassed in his little system of finance, and depressed in spirit and self-estimation, as well as in circumstances. There is nothing so dangerous or fatal to this kingdom (the progress of VICE and INFIDELITY only excepted) as the increase of the list of *paupers*. I am, therefore, most anxious to impress on your minds, and on the minds of the overseers, that in every instance in which, either by act or omission, you habituate or impel the cottager to resort to his parish as a *pauper* for relief, you add to the parochial burthens, you diminish the number of useful poor, and you do irretrievable injury to your parish ; that, on the contrary, whenever, by assistance in sickness or under the pressure of temporary calamity, by aid in the education and placing out of their children, by the provision of healthful and equitable employment, by addition to their domestic resources and means of life, and by the supply of potatoe-grounds, cow-pastures, and other objects of occupation and attention for their vacant hours, you inspirit the labouring poor to depend on their own industry, and not on their parish, for the maintenance of themselves and their children, you promote the interest of your respective parishes, the welfare of your country, and the general happiness of mankind.

The duty of the overseer is confined to the temporal comfort and welfare of his fellow-subjects ; in addition to that

The additional duty

necessary concern, your office takes of church-
a more elevated sphere of action, and wardens.
directs you in aid of the sacred order, to contribute
to the prevalence of religion, virtue, morality, and
decency, within your parish. It is peculiarly for-
tunate that those functions are accompanied with
the power and obligation of promoting also the
temporal benefit of the poor. Without religious
improvement all animal gratification is vain and
unsatisfactory; and those, who are regardless of
the personal and domestic comforts of the poor,
can have but little prospect of possessing an influ-
ence over the heart. Pressed down by indigence
and necessity, the soul is not always able to look
up with hope, and address itself with energy, to
the consolation of religion.

In despotic empires, the care of public morals,
and of public safety, is vested exclu- General duty
sively in the governing power. But of a free
in this *free kingdom*, it is the duty of people.
every inhabitant of the British isles, to endeavour
in his station of life, to be the **BENEFACtor** of
his country; and by his own example, and by the
execution of those functions (whether public or
private, whether elevated or subordinate) with
which he may be entrusted, to endeavour, to the
extent of his power, to promote *indusry, prudenc*e,
morality, and *religion*, in that favoured country, to
which he has the happiness to belong.

As a churchwarden, exclusively of those func-
tions which you exercise jointly with Duty of
the parochial overseers, your duty is churchwards
twofold.

twofold ; first, that which relates to the care of the church and church-yard, and to the providing and preserving those things of the church, the property whereof the law hath vested in you in your corporate capacity : and secondly, that duty which respects the guardianship of morals within the precincts of your parish ; in some few instances to correct, and in others to present to the bishop, to the archdeacon, or his official, such notorious immorality or offence, as is deserving of public notice and punishment.

With regard to the first of these duties, the care of the church, I beg to impress upon your minds, that *so far as your power extends*, you should keep

the house of God in such a state, that *every individual within your parochial limits* may have the means and inducement to attend public worship in the church, and through the mediation of our REDEEMER, to offer up prayer and praise to our CREATOR. Before the period of the Reformation, every part of the parish church was open and free to all parishioners, of whatever rank and condition. Local circumstances, and the unimpeached prescription of above two centuries, may have given exclusive claim to certain seats in favour of particular persons. But no lapse of time would produce an exclusion of the parishioner from his own parish church, to which he is liable to be rated for its repairs and support ; or would exempt the guardian of his spiritual and temporal rights (the dignified station in which you stand) from exerting

all the power with which the law has entrusted him, to provide proper accommodation in the parish church, for every individual within your parish; and to hold out every inducement, that your public or private situation affords, to encourage their attendance.

This, gentlemen, is your first duty; for it is implicated with the prevalence of general Of the repair and operative Christianity in this coun- of the church. try. Connected with it is the repair and conser- vation of the fabric; in which it behoves you not to omit any act of reparation, which the preserv- ing of the building, or the services of the church, demand; nor to propose or direct any unnecessary or superfluous works for the decoration of your church, from motives of a partial or private nature.

The church-yard should also be an object of your care, that the inclosure and The church- bounds thereof be duly preserved; yard. and in those instances, where the proprietors of adjoining lands are liable to any ascertained proportion of the expense of inclosure, that they may be required and compelled to bear or contribute such proportion. You will also have respect to its sa- cred and appropiate use, and not permit feasts, games, or any profane or worldly occupation, to be held or followed within its precincts.

Tho the freehold of the church and church- yard is by law placed in the rector or vicar, the property and possession of the things appertaining to the church are vested exclusively in you. It is your duty to As to the things be- longing to the church.

provide and preserve those goods and ornaments, which the decent character of our reformed religion hath deemeed expedient for the rites of religious worship ; and to see that they are, at all times, in suitable order and condition. In those parishes where the church-wardens have long been in the habit of making provision for religious offices within their church, it will be unnecessary for me to enumerate the several articles, which our ecclesiastical canons have directed shall be provided for the duties thereof. The reading desk, clerk's desk, the surplices, the bible and prayer book, the pulpit, the font, the register books for marriages baptisms and burials ; the bier, the church bell, the altar, the chalice, bason, and other articles proper for the ministration of the holy communion, though formerly the objects of special ecclesiastical injunction, are now so regularly provided, as to render the detailed naming of them superfluous ; and it may be sufficient in me to say, that it is your duty to see that every particular is provided and kept, which is requisite for the performance of divine service in your church, and for the public religious duties of the parishioners. It may be useful however, to notice that, by the canons of our church, it is provided, not only that the ten cominandments, but that "chosen sentences shall, at the charge of the parish, be written on the walls of the churches and chapels, in places convenient." I would recommend it therefore to you to consider, how far certain passages of Scripture, selected by the minister, and

proposed to the public eye, may have a beneficial effect on the spectator ; and, in case the benefit of that effect is prevented by the omission of that which is enjoined you, whether you are not responsible for the consequences of that omission.

For the repairs of the church, and of the church-yard, and for providing, and keeping in neat condition, the goods appertaining to the church, so that all things may be done decently and in order, you are authorized, together with the majority of the parishioners, assembled upon public notice given in the church (or, if none assemble on such notice, then of your own authority) to levy an equal rate upon the occupiers of land and houses in the parish (the rectorial and vicarial estate only excepted, in respect of their contribution to the repairs of the chancel) such sum or sums of money as shall be wanted; this rate being to be recovered, and its payment enforced, in the ecclesiastical courts, and not elsewhere; except under such peculiar circumstances, as require a trial by common law.

With respect to the alms for the poor, which shall be received by you, while sentences of the offertory are reading in the communion service, I would suggest to your consideration, and to that of the minister, whether it be strictly right to apply them, in aid and as part of the parochial rate; and whether the conscientious application of them (not to refer in this instance to any prudential motives) will not be more attended to, in distributing them to poor and religious

cottagers and housekeepers, who are not chargeable to the parish ; and who by such judicious assistance and encouragement, may be induced to persevere, without recurring to the parish ; rather than by a different mode of distribution, to throw them into the general mass of the parochial funds, or to apply them for the benefit of the immediate objects of parochial relief.

Your appointment, strictly speaking, is only for termination the year ; but it will continue in force of their office until your successors are elected. To them will then devolve any right of action, theretofore vested in you in your corporate capacity, and not exercised during your continuance in office. In their name any remedy for the recovery of the property of the church, or for the enforcing of the payment of the church-rate, tho made by yourselves, must be brought ; with exclusion of those instances where the action has been commenced by you during your continuance in office, and with exception of any peculiar case proper for relief in a court of equity.

At the end of the year, or within a month after, Their account at the latest, it is your duty to give to and indemnity the minister and the parishioners a just account of such monies, as you shall have received or expended ; and to deliver up the balance of money, and the other things in your possession by virtue of your office, so as that they may be placed in the hands of the next churchwardens, your successors ; and as a security and indemnity to you in the performance of so important a duty

as that entrusted to you, if an action be brought against you for any act done by you officially, you may plead the general issue, and give the special matter in evidence ; and, if a verdict be found for you, or the plaintiff be nonsuit, or discontinue, you are entitled to double costs.

This act, however, I should inform you, has been held to apply only to what you shall do by virtue of your office in temporal matters, and not to those parts of your duty, upon which I shall have next to observe. The function of *guardian of the morals of a parish*, is eminent and dignified ; but in its exercise it requires much discretion, steady temper, and disinterested attention. And in this, and in every part of your duty, I recommend to you to apply for advice and assistance to your minister ; and so to execute your office, as to give weight and respect to his influence and precepts.

When vice dares to come forth from its hiding place, and to offer its undisguised form to general view, it is fitting,—it is due to public decency,—that those, who are entrusted with authority of the law, should preserve their fellow-subjects from so hateful and noxious an example. The law has therefore vested in your hands the power, and has imposed upon you the duty, of presenting to the bishop, or his delegates, the names of those, whose vicious conduct may produce a bad effect on the lives of others. In the execution, however, of this duty, I entreat you not to permit any partial or interested

Of preventing
excesses and
offences.

motives to deter you from the conscientious discharge of your duty: but at the same time, I recommend you not to suffer yourselves to be misled by common report; or to proceed in a matter of so much moment, without satisfactory evidence to support your presentments; so that offenders, being presented, do not escape punishment for want of proof. And, before you adopt so decisive a measure, I trust that you will not only ascertain the culpability of the party, but also that you will satisfy yourself whether, by private admonition, by asking the assistance of your minister, or by some other mitigated mode, the offender may not be brought to a sense of his error, and be restored to the paths of virtue, without being exposed to public shame, or condemned to public punishment.

It is no immaterial part of your duty to watch over the public houses of your parish; and to see that, while they offer accommodation to the community, they do not prejudice the morals and welfare of the poor, or of any other class of life. Upon unlicenced persons keeping an ale-house, or hawking spirituous liquors, you are officially enjoined to levy penalties; and it is likewise your duty to see that those who have licences, exercise them fitly, and that they do not keep their houses open at improper hours (particularly during the time of divine service) or permit improper persons to assemble there, or to behave in a manner injurious to public morals.

To conclude, I have only to remind you, that you have this day sworn " truly and faithfully to

" execute the office of churchwarden within your parish, and according to the best of your skill and knowledge, to present such things and persons, as to your knowledge are presentable by the laws ecclesiastical of this country." You will therefore consider that not only every presentation you make, but every act of your office, is sanctioned by the sacred oath which you have taken, as much as if it had been repeated in every single instance.—It is my anxious hope, and earnest wish, that the faithful and conscientious discharge of your duty may be a never-failing source of satisfaction to you here, and of happiness hereafter.

No. II.

*Copy of the Plan of Instruction at the Kendal Schools
of Industry.*

I. THE scholars to be divided into classes of tens; each scholar to keep his own class, and to be promoted or degraded from one class to another, according to his proficiency in reading.

II. When a promotion has taken place, the numbers in the several classes to be equalized; either by putting down the worst reader in the class, into the place of him that was promoted, or by promoting the best to a still higher class; as the visitor or master may think proper at the time.

III. Each class to be daily in the school one hour and no longer, whether they have finished their appointed exercises or not; those who fail, to be set to the same, and to nothing else, every day till they have performed it.

IV. Each scholar that can write well, to keep a journal of all the exercises, and the different things that he may be taught in the schools.

V. One day in every week to be constantly set apart, for going over again the whole week's work, for repeating the tables, rules of spelling, the rudiments of geography, &c.

VI. Once a quarter public examinations to be held, and once a year prizes of entertaining Books to be given to the best readers, writers, and accountants of different ages.

VII. The best behaved scholars of the higher classes, to be employed as assistant teachers when wanted, and to be paid as much for the time they are employed, as they could have earned at other work.

BEGINNERS TO LEARN PERFECTLY

1st. To count as far as twenty ; and then to learn the alphabet, by copying the characters in sand with their fingers, beginning with capitals of the simplest form, and proceeding regularly to the most complex, in order as follows. First division, I H T L E F. Second division, X Y K A V W M N Z. Third division, U C J G D P B R O Q S. And during this period to learn to count to 100, by getting ten at a time for a task.

2d. To learn the small letters, by copying in sand the characters from cards, containing four capitals, and small letters, in alphabetical order ; and then to learn to repeat the alphabet, by getting a card for a task.

3d. To distinguish vowels from consonants ; to make diphthongs and double consonants in sand, and then to learn their several powers in Farrers's spelling book.

4th. To make the italics, stops, and figures in sand ; to read easy lessons ; to get at night the rules of spelling, and to shew examples. To write with ink, to read harder lessons, and to spell.

5th. To get the tables, and to be taught arithmetic ; to read and be taught geography, the rudi-

ments of grammar, to correct bad English, and to write letters.

EXEMPLIFICATION.

Let the highest class be called up first, and so on to the lowest. Put a child to counting little pebbles till he can tell any number up to twenty, without hesitation : shew him the letter I, tell him its name, and guide his finger in making it once ; let him then make it himself repeatedly, till he can make a good letter and recollect its name, and till he can do this, let him not attempt any other. Do the same with H, and then ask him to make I without looking at the original, and thus exercise him between the two, till he can recollect them both perfectly, and so on with all the rest, and let the beginning of each day's work be to retrace the exercise of the former day's. When a whole division is thus finished, cross-examine him strictly in the whole of it : let him be very perfect also in distinguishing b d p q, f f, u n m, c e, among the small letters, and small l from capital I. Then tell him that letters are of two sorts, one of which may be sounded alone, and called vowels ; the other cannot be sounded by themselves, and called consonants. Shew him examples in sand, beginning with a, and keeping him to it, till he can pronounce it with any two single consonants (except c and g,) in every possible combination, and so on with the other vowels. Then tell him the different sounds of each vowel, and the use of e final, still confining his attention to one vowel, till he under-

stands it. Then exercise him in the two sounds of c and g, and tell him that single s sounds like z at the end of all monosyllables, except *yes, this, us, thus*. In this stage also, teach him to aspirate the H. Then let him make the double consonants in sand, and be told that two of the same coming together, are called double as ff, ll. In reading, let him not be considered as perfect, till he can go through his lesson without spelling, omitting, or miscalling a single word, and can stop correctly, and can spell every word off the book if required: nor let any vulgar pronunciation, stammering, dragging out of syllables, or repetition of words be permitted. In repeating from memory, let him not be considered as perfect, till he do it without missing a word. When he is farther advanced, let him look the dictionary for every word he does not understand; and in geography, let him refer to the map for every place mentioned. In writing and accounts, let the same strict order be observed, and in every instance, let the exercise be short enough to render all these things practicable.

N. B. Where scholars have had some previous instruction elsewhere, let the first care be to ascertain in what points they are most deficient, let them uniformly be put down in what they do not properly understand; and then let them proceed regularly in what they do.

No. III.

Three Reports of the Sub-Committee, appointed by the FEVER INSTITUTION, to direct the White-washing, with quick Lime, of those Dwellings of the Poor, in which Infection has lately subsisted.

In order to obtain the information necessary to their fulfilling the purposes of their appointment, the Committee addressed a circular letter to the physicians of the several dispensaries in the metropolis, expressive of their readiness to attend to any intelligence, with which they might be favoured on the subject. In consequence of the information which they have received, they have proceeded in the execution of their office ; and now beg leave to submit some particulars of the cases which have fallen under their notice.

No. 1. Nicholas Terry, his wife, and two small children, reside in a narrow room, on the ground floor, in Lunley's Rents, near Chancery-lane. They had very lately arrived from Ireland, when the wife was attacked by a fever, from which she partially recovered in a few days ; but, at the end of about a fortnight, relapsed ; and, at the same time, the man became affected in a violent degree. From the closeness of the room (occasioned chiefly by the impossibility of opening the windows) and the evident infectious nature of the disease, none of their neighbours would venture to their assist-

ance; and for three days after they had been confined to bed, the only attention, which they received, was from the woman's sister; who kindly took the children to her own house, and visited the sick persons twice every day; when, as she expressed herself, "she just ran in, and set a little whey by their bed-side, but durst not stay to do any thing for them, lest she should carry home the infection to her own family." Medical advice being at length applied for, and the violence of the man's fever, with the other circumstances of his situation, rendering it evident that no effectual relief could be afforded to him at home, his relation was advised to obtain admission for him into an hospital; and one was particularly mentioned, which was said to admit fever-patients at all times without recommendation, *as accidents*. Thither the man was carried immediately *in a hackney-coach*; but finding to his great mortification, that he had been mis-informed as to the facility of gaining admission, he was obliged to return in the same vehicle, in which he remained nearly three hours.—On the following day, however, both of them applied in the *regular* way to another hospital, where they had the good fortune to be admitted; and in due time recovered some degree of health: but being anxious to return home, and not aware of the danger they incurred, nor possessing the means to guard against it, they re-occupied their former residence, without any measures having been adopted for purifying or ventilating their apartment. Their return home was very soon followed by a second relapse on the

part of the woman ; and afterwards by the illness of both the children, the man still remaining very weak and low. In this state they were found, when the Committee visited their dwelling. The room was extremely close and offensive, and the walls very dirty. The mother and children were immediately recommended to a dispensary by one of the committee, and the room has been washed with hot lime ; Mr. Lumley, the proprietor of the house, having (upon request) readily promised to make the alterations necessary for ventilating the room.—It is with concern that the Committee have to add, that the sister of Terry's wife was a sufferer from her humane attendance on the family. Herself, and all her family (except her husband) have been since successively attacked by the fever.

No. 2. In an apartment on the ground floor, at No. 29, Plumtree-court, Shoe-lane, a poor widow died of the infectious fever a short time since ; having previously communicated the disease to her son, a boy about twelve years of age, who at her death was removed to the workhouse. The bed, bedding, and other articles of infected furniture, *were sold to a broker* ; and the room, not very large, became tenanted by a family, consisting of a man and his wife, her father, and sister, and two children. As infection had not yet appeared among them, the Committee thought that the preventive measures of the Institution were here peculiarly applicable ; and ordered the furniture to be cleansed, and the room to be washed with hot lime, which has accordingly been done.

No. 3. Field-lane is a narrow and crowded passage, at the bottom of Holborn-hill, lined chiefly with shops for old clothes, rags, and dog's meat. At No. 29, in this lane, (a very dark and dirty house) Joseph Mitten, his wife, and daughter, had been successively attacked by the fever; and tho they were all recovered, yet as their apartment was very small and filthy, the Committee thought it right to direct the whitewashing of the room, to prevent the danger of a renewal of the infection.

No. 4. At No. 101, Fetter-lane, a poor man named Finlayson, his wife, and four children, were at one time confined in different stages of the fever. The state of their walls indicated a neglect of many years; and these, as well as the ceilings and floors, were whitewashed with hot lime, and thoroughly cleansed. The sister of the woman, living at Norwood, visited this family when the man was first ill; and was soon after attacked by the fever, which she communicated to all her children, six in number.

No. 5. The contagion of *Typhus*-fever was introduced into the apartment of William Clark (inhabiting a room on the second floor, at No. 226, High Holborn) by a man whom he took in as a lodger; and who died there of the fever. The succession of persons infected by this lodger, as far as the Committee have been able to trace it, is as follows: Eleanor Clark, and her two children; Jane Gray, her sister-in-law; William Gray, her brother; John Camp, a person who occasionally visited Clark's room; a relation named Mumford; Hannah Gray, who was the mother of Eleanor

Clark, and who died of the fever ; and lastly, a woman inhabiting a room on the first floor in the same house.*—It is remarkable that, notwithstanding this evident virulence of the contagion, William Clark himself has hitherto not been affected : his wife, however complained, that “ *she should never be well until their room was sweetened,*”—and thankfully accepted the offer of the Committee, to have her apartment cleansed and whitewashed ; which has been accordingly done.

No. 6. In an apartment lately occupied by a family named Clark, at No. 10, Fleet-row, Eyre-street-hill, the father and eldest daughter had died of the fever, which had also attacked the mother, and four other children. These have since left the house ; and it is now tenanted by other persons, to preserve whom from the danger of the infection, the Committee directed the purification of the room.

No. 7. The apartment of Mary Smart, No 43, Peartree-court, Clerkenwell, inhabited by herself, her mother, and daughter, who had all had the fever, and had communicated it to a person occupying one of the upper rooms, has been also whitewashed by the direction of the Committee.

24th July, 1801.

No. 8 At No. 2, Tenter-alley, Moorfields, James Walker, his wife, and three children, occupy two small rooms, in one of which all of them sleep.

* Since this Report was presented, the Committee have been informed of five children and three other persons having been infected from this source ; in all, eighteen persons.

The two former were attacked by a fever in the same day about nine weeks ago, and in the same week two of their children, in consequence, as they supposed of *having purchased a bed at a broker's.* All these persons have now recovered except the man, who continues extremely weak, and *has nearly lost his sight.* During their illness, they were attended by the woman's sister, who caught the fever; the husband of another sister, who visited them, was also attacked by it, and died a few day's since. The rooms of these persons have been whitewashed, and the bed-furniture scoured, by order of the Committee.

No. 9. John Lee, his wife, and four children, inhabiting a garret at No. 7, Parker-street, Drury-lane, were attacked by fever several months ago; and the room which they occupy being very small, with a sloping roof, every individual, except the man, has twice relapsed. This room has now been thoroughly cleansed and whitewashed.

In the prosecution of their inquiries, the Committee have visited many dwellings beside those now enumerated: in some of these, they had reason to think that the disease which had been supposed contagious was not really so; in other cases, altho' infectious fever had evidently prevailed in the family, there were yet circumstances which appeared to render it unnecessary to direct the whitewashing of the rooms. The following cases are of the latter description; but the Committee hope that some particulars of them will appear not unworthy of relation.

Mary Whitfield, widow, and four of her six children, had the fever some time ago, in a small room in Love-court, Mutton-hill. They had removed from this place to No. 6, Spread-eagle-court, Gray's-inn-lane, and all had recovered ; but at the time of the Committee visiting them, a fifth child was beginning to be ill, in consequence, as was supposed, *of their having brought with them the bedding on which they had formerly lain.* It appearing probable, that the walls of their present apartment had not become infected, the Committee directed only that the furniture should be cleansed, and the bedding put in a proper state, which have been accordingly done. On inspecting the room which they had quitted, the Committee found that it had been whitewashed by its subsequent occupier.

A man and his wife, named Holloway, inhabited a garret at No. 39, Eagle-street, Red-lion-square. Their daughter, who was a servant, caught a fever early in the last winter by visiting an acquaintance, and communicated it to her mother, who *died* of it ; the father then caught it, *and died* ; and lastly, their son was attacked by it, *and also died.* The daughter finally recovered ; and the room was soon after occupied by an elderly woman, who, as the Committee have reason to believe, *is uncommonly attentive to the cleanliness and the ventilation of her apartment.* This person has now resided in it for several months without sustaining any injury. The Committee conceived, therefore, that the danger of infection was here at an end, and that the whitewashing of the room was of course unnecessary.

Ann Kirby, living at No. 10, Tothill-street, was attacked by fever in consequence, as she supposed, of having purchased a bed from a person who had lately recovered from it. The fever had been communicated successively to her daughter, son, and husband, the latter of whom lay dead at the time the Committee visited the house.

At No. 2. Crown-court, Bell-alley, Goswell-street, William Spicer, his wife, and four children, sleep in a room less than nine feet square, in which, as there is no fire-place, and as they were always accustomed to sleep with the door and window closed, the air was always wholly confined during the night. Every individual of this family was affected by fever *in the course of one week*, about Christmas last, and all of them did not recover their health for more than four months afterwards. The man having learned from an advertisement inserted by this Institution, that his apartment ought to be whitewashed with hot lime, had done so himself. The Committee, in addition, instructed him to make the alterations necessary for the proper ventilation of the room.

Aug. 14th. 1801.

The cases which have occurred to the Sub-Committee since the presenting of their last Report, have not been attended with many circumstances requiring particular mention: those marked No. 14 to No. 19 inclusive, occurred in one court in the Borough; in these six families, twenty-one persons, are said to have been ill, of whom four died; but the Committee were satisfied that the disease

which had prevailed among them was not *Typhus*, but *scarlet-fever*. As this had entirely ceased, and it did not appear in any degree probable, that it would be renewed, they did not deem it necessary to direct whitewashing or any other preventive measures.

No. 20. This case was one of considerable hardship. The fever commenced in the family (residing at No. 5, George-street, Wentworth-street, White-chapel,) early in July, with the illness of one of the children ; and was communicated successively to three other children, the mother, a fifth child, and lastly, to the father. The room which this family occupied, was sufficiently large and airy, having two good windows ; but this advantage was more than counterbalanced by their having only one bedstead for the whole family. The bedding was miserably bad ; it consisting only of some straw mats, one sheet, a few linen rags, and a rug. The poor woman had lain in just before the fever appeared among them, and was attacked by it while in the state of debility incidental to that situation ; five of the children died of the fever, which was also communicated to two neighbours, who came to assist the sick persons ; and who, as the Committee are informed, were removed to a workhouse. The family was attended during their illness by Dr. Marcket, one of the physicians to the City Dispensary ; and the woman declared to the Committee that, but for his *pecuniary support*, as well as professional assistance, they must have sunk under the miseries of their situation. This woman was slowly

recovering from a second relapse, when the Committee visited their apartment. Every other member of the family had also suffered at least one relapse. The Committee have directed the whitewashing of this room, and the cleansing of so much of the bedding as would admit of it. They have also ventured, in this one instance, to exceed the powers vested in them ; and to supply some not very expensive articles of bedding, which seemed indispensably requisite for restoring and preserving the health of the family : and they trust that, on a consideration of all the circumstances, the General Committee will not disapprove their conduct.

No. 21. Into this family, No. 1, Clarence-passage, St. Pancras, the fever was introduced by one of the sons, who could not account for the origin of it. It attacked the father, mother, and three other children. Upon application for their relief being made to the parish-officers, the latter, at first, refused to render any assistance, except for passing the family to their own parish, at an hundred miles distance ; and the Committee are assured that they must have perished for want, had not some benevolent persons assisted them, and by their countenance induced the parish to supply them with a weekly allowance. The rooms of this family have been whitewashed, and the fever has entirely ceased.

In the next case, No. 6, Wild-street, Drury-lane, the interference of the Committee had been anticipated by the inhabitants of the room having (in consequence of the suggestion of a Governor of

this Institution) procured the whitewashing of it. As an encouragement to the practice, the Committe have thought it right to reimburse the expense incurred.

No. 23. This case, which occurred at No. 6, Hand-alley, Moorfields, is chiefly remarkable as affording a melancholy instance of the necessity of a *Fever Institution* in the metropolis. For want of timely measures being adopted to check the progress of contagion amongst them, every one of a family of seven was infected by the fever ; and it has, in its course, proved fatal to him, on whose existence and industry the support of the whole family depended ; and, in consequence of whose loss, the burthen of their maintenance must necessarily be henceforward borne by the community.

30th Oct. 1801.

No. IV.

*Charge to the Master of the Workhouse at Sunbury,
Middlesex. By the Rev. JAMES COWE.*

AT a time when many of the poor are labouring under peculiar difficulties, and are exerting their utmost efforts to maintain their families without parochial aid, it seems to be highly necessary to state to you the principle, which ought both to actuate you as master of our workhouse, and the poor who are supported in it at so great an expense.

In the first place, you are hereby required to maintain order and regularity, and to repress idleness and profligacy, among those entrusted to your care. With this important view, none of the poor are to be permitted to leave the premises of the workhouse without your knowledge and consent.

In the next place, you are to keep them employed in picking oakum, horse-hair, wool, and feathers; in making mops, cutting furze, knitting stockings; in works of husbandry, or other necessary and useful occupations; or, they may be more particularly employed in the various branches of the woollen and worsted manufactory. Remember, however, that to procure *regular employment* for them, is a most important part of your duty. You are not to allow any to be idle, who are capable of labour:

In carrying on these beneficial objects, we trust that you will pay peculiar attention to the manners

and conduct of those who, through their own mismanagement, improvidence, or vices, are reduced to indigence, and are become burdensome to the parish; and that you will endeavour to reform their principles, to lead them to a more sober and orderly mode of life, and to introduce moral habits among them. We expect that you will make a marked distinction between the industrious and the idle, the orderly, and the turbulent. And we highly recommend it to you to give premiums occasionally (suppose once a month) to the most industrious and deserving among the poor, and thereby to excite a laudable spirit of exertion and improvement. But those, who do not perform their business peaceably and properly, or are indolent, refractory, or profligate, are to be restricted in their diet, or to be otherwise punished.

With respect to the children, you are to take the utmost pains to instruct them in reading, and in the church catechism; to form them to early habits of industry, piety and virtue; and to shew them, as they grew up, the importance of their making some provision for themselves against sickness, accident, or the infirmities of old age. They are often to be reminded, that, through the blessing of Providence, their chief preservative from future distress must be their own prudence, œconomy, and industry. You are, therefore, to direct and encourage their exertions, to elevate their minds gradually to a state of manliness and independence, and to inculcate gratitude, contentment, and benignity of heart.

A book is to be procured, in which shall be inserted, the names, ages, times of admission, and former occupations, of all the poor in the workhouse; and a weekly account shall be taken, specifying how each of them has been employed, for the inspection of the minister, parish-officers, and other respectable inhabitants of Sunbury.

While the poor are to be thus orderly, and thus usefully employed, according to their ages and abilities, you are further required to maintain and clothe them properly,—to pay great and daily attention to their health and cleanliness, to make them attend public worship every Sunday, and to treat them at all times with humanity. And we earnestly request, that, on a Sunday evening, you will assemble them together, and read to them some portion of Scripture, and some sermon or religious tract, which will be put into your hands for the purpose of instructing the ignorant, comforting the unfortunate, and reforming the vicious, or the thoughtless.

While you are to be thus assiduous in promoting those regulations that are essential to industry and good morals, we cannot omit this opportunity of mentioning another point, of no small importance to the health and comfort of the poor. It will naturally be expected, that *cleanliness* among the poor, and in the workhouse, should be a constant object of your attention. It will also, we are confident, be your wish and endeavour to prevent any contagious disorder from spreading. For these purposes, we think that the workroom should be

well ventilated. The floors and the machinery should be regularly washed once a week with warm water. The bed-rooms should be swept every morning, and washed every week ; and the windows kept open all day And, besides these salutary precautions, to which we hope you will pay serious attention, you are occasionally to request the parish-officers, to have the different apartments of the house whitewashed with hot lime.

In short, we trust that you will ever bear in mind the momentous duty you have this day undertaken, and will use your utmost exertions to discharge it in a manner, that will give general satisfaction to the parish, will procure respect from the poor, and will secure the approbation of God and of your own conscience.

Sunbury, 13th April, 1801.

No. V.

The following Account of the effects of the intemperate use of Spirituous Liquors is extracted from Dr. Willan's valuable Reports * on the Diseases in London. It is inserted here, in the hope that this accurate detail of symptoms may preserve some few individuals, at least, from the miserable consequences of dram-drinking.

"ON comparing my own observations with the bills of mortality, I am convinced, that considerably more than *one-eighth* of all the deaths which take place in the metropolis, in persons above twenty years old, happen prematurely through excess in drinking *spirits*. These pernicious liquors are generally supposed to have an immediate and specific effect on the liver; which has been found, after death, in drinkers of spirits, hardened or altered as to its texture, discoloured, and diminished. It appears, however, that the stomach and bowels suffer first from the use of spirits; and that their baneful influence is afterwards extended gradually to every part of the body, producing the following symptoms:

"1st. *Indigestion*, attended with a disrelish of plain food; with frequent nausea, and oppressive pains at the stomach; together with *an inexpressible*

* Published by Johnson, 1801.

sensation of sinking, faintness,* and horror; with sudden convulsive discharges from the stomach into the mouth, of a clear, acid, or sweetish fluid.—2d. Racking pains, and violent contractions, of the bowels. These symptoms often return periodically, about four o'clock in the morning, being attended with extreme depression, or languor, a shortness of breath, and the most dreadful apprehensions.—3d. In persons of a sanguine habit, tedious inflammations of the membrane which covers the bowels, producing intense pain, so so that the slightest pressure on the belly cannot be endured.—4th. Swelling of the body, emaciation of the limbs, with frequent cramps; and pains of the joints, finally settling in the soles of the feet. These symptoms are succeeded by a degree of palsy, or, at least, an incapacity of moving the limbs with any considerable effect.—5th. Sallow-ness of complexion, with dryness and scaliness of the skin. As the powers of circulation are more and more impaired, the red vessels disappear from the white of the eye; the secretion of bile is imperfectly performed; and the small hairs of the skin fall off, leaving the surface, especially of the lower extremities, very smooth and shining.—6th. Jaundice and dropsical swellings of the legs, with

* The daily custom of drinking tea, which has lately so much increased among the poor, and of relying on that and a little bread, butter, and sugar, for the sole supply of animal life, has contributed to the production of low nervous diseases; and in its consequences has impelled many to the habitual use of spirituous liquors, who (if they could have been aware of the pernicious effects of the vice of DRAM-DRINKING) would have avoided it with horror.

general redness or inflammation of the skin, terminating in black spots and gangrenous ulcers.—7th. *Ulcers* in the mouth, throat, &c. and an offensive smell of the breath, similar to that of rotten apples.—8th. Profuse discharges of blood from the nostrils, stomach, bowels, kidneys, or bladder; and from the lungs, in persons of a consumptive habit.—9th. *An entire change in the state of mind.** At first, *low spirits, strange sensations, and groundless fears*, alternate with unseasonable, and often boisterous, mirth: a degree of *stupidity*, or confusion of ideas, succeeds. The memory, and the faculties depending on it, being impaired, there takes place an indifference towards usual occupations, and accustomed society or amusements. No interest is taken in the concerns of others: no love, no sympathy remains. Even natural affection to nearest relatives is gradually extinguished; and the moral sense seems obliterated. The wretched victims of a **FATAL POISON** fall, at length, into a state of fatuity; and die, with the powers both of body and mind wholly exhausted. Some, after repeated fits of **DERANGEMENT**, expire in a *sudden and violent PHRENZY*. Some are hurried out of the world by **APOPLEXIES**: others perish by the slower process of jaundice, dropsy, internal ulcers, and mortification in the limbs.”

* Speaking of private houses for reception of lunatics, Dr. Willan observes, that many of the wretched inhabitants are persons of the lowest rank, admitted at a moderate expense; having injured their constitutions, and destroyed their intellects, *by excess in drinking spirits*; page 327.

No. VI.

The Establishment of female Friendly Societies, upon an unexceptionable plan, would be very beneficial to the Poor, and indeed to the Community at large. We have therefore inserted the regulations of the Bishop Auckland female Friendly Society, instituted 1st January, 1799.

I. THIS society shall be divided into two classes ; namely, of honorary members, who shall subscribe one shilling and sixpence a quarter, at the four quarterly meetings, hereinafter mentioned, towards the benevolent purposes of the institution ; but shall not be entitled to any pecuniary benefit, or assistance therefrom : and of general members, consisting of females of thirty years of age, or upwards, who shall pay sixpence a month, except during the time they are entitled to relief.

II. Every general member shall pay two shillings and sixpence, entrance money, upon admission into this society, and on such payment, shall be entitled to receive a copy of these rules. But in cases where two shillings and sixpence cannot be afforded, one shilling will be accepted, and the remainder will be made up by the president.

III. Every female who wishes to become a member of this society, shall signify such her desire to the treasurer, who shall report such application to the next quarterly meeting of the society : and

if she be approved of by a majority of such meeting, she shall, on entering her name in manner hereinafter mentioned, and on paying the admission money above specified, become a general member.

IV. Any lady, desirous of becoming an honorary member of this society, may be admitted at any quarterly meeting of the committee, on being proposed by an honorary member, and on paying five shillings entrance money.

V. A standing committee shall be appointed, consisting of all the honorary members of this society, when their number amounts to five, or upwards; and, in case these shall at any time not amount to five in number, then the deficiency shall be made up out of such general members as shall be elected at the next general meeting of the society, after such deficiency shall happen, by a majority of members then present.

VI. Four quarterly meetings shall be held at twelve o'clock on the following days; that is to say, the fifth day of January, the fifth day of April, the fifth day of July, and the tenth day of October, in each year, at the Bishop's Porter's Lodge; or at such other place as a majority of the members, assembled at one of the said quarterly meetings, shall from time to time appoint; and at each of which quarterly meetings the receiver shall pay into the hands of the treasurer, the monthly subscriptions of the general members. If any such member shall neglect to pay her monthly contribution as aforesaid, she shall forfeit one penny for every such

neglect ; and if she shall neglect to discharge all arrears, at the next quarterly meeting after such forfeiture has been incurred, she shall from that time be excluded the society ; unless it shall, at a subsequent meeting of the committee, from the peculiar circumstances of the case, be decided to the contrary.

VII. Every general member afflicted with sickness, or bodily infirmity, or casualty, and desirous of being assisted from the fund of this society, and being intitled as before mentioned, shall give, or send, notice of her indisposition to the treasurer ; who shall request one of the committee, within the space of twenty-four hours after such notice, either personally, or by deputy, to visit the person giving or sending such notice ; and on being satisfied of the reality of her sickness, bodily infirmity, or casualty, shall sign and leave with such sick member, a ticket, mentioning the day of the week, and month upon which she was so visited, together with her name, and apparent illness, and the allowance to such sick member shall take place from the date of such ticket.

VIII. Every general member, applying for relief, shall be liable to be visited, during her illness, by any member of the committee, or by any person deputed by the committee for that purpose ; and, on her recovery, she shall give immediate notice thereof to one of the said committee, or to the treasurer. And if any member shall be found guilty of having given a false representation of her case, or of having procured a false certificate with

intent to defraud the society, or of delaying the notice of her recovery for more than six days, she shall be liable to be excluded from the society, by a vote of the majority of its members, assembled at the next quarterly meeting.

IX. The allowance to sick and infirm members of this society, during their illness, shall be as follows, namely, in case the illness shall be such as wholly to disable the party from working, or (if in service) from discharging the duty of her place, two shillings a week as long as she shall be deemed by the committee to be an object of relief.

X. That no member of this society be intitled to any allowance, in case of sickness, infirmity, or casualty, unless she shall have been admitted, and paid her contribution money, for twelve months previous to her application for relief.

XI. That the sum of ten shillings be allowed to any member of the society, on the birth of a child born in lawful wedlock.

XII. That Mr. Emm be desired to act as treasurer, and Mr. George Bowes as collector, for the purpose of collecting, managing, and appropriating the monied fund of the society, and for the other purposes herein mentioned; and that the treasurer shall have the custody of the admission and contribution money, and shall be the sole accountant to the society, for the receipt and application thereof.

XIII. If any general member shall continue for thirty years, her contribution shall be reduced to four shillings a year, if the fund of the society shall admit of such reduction; and if such member

shall continue forty years, she shall be excused from any future contribution, and shall nevertheless be entitled to all the advantages arising therefrom.

XIV. That it shall be in the power of the society, at any of its meetings, to require security from any person invested by them with an office of trust, for the due and faithful execution thereof; and for rendering a just account, according to these rules; as by the act of the 33d of his present majesty, for the encouragement and relief of Friendly Societies, is authorised and directed.

XV. If any member, after her admission, shall be charged with any scandalous crime, she shall not be admitted to any future meetings, except for the purpose of vindicating her character; and, if she fail of doing this to the satisfaction of a majority of the committee at its next meeting, it shall be in the power of such majority to exclude her altogether from this society, as a disreputable and unworthy member.

XVI. Every member who shall remove from Bishop Auckland, upon her falling sick, or being rendered incapable of following her work, or (if in service) of discharging the duty of her place, shall procure a certificate under the hand of a surgeon, or apothecary, or of the minister and church-wardens of the township where she resides, and send it to the treasurer, before she shall be entitled to any relief from the society.

XVII. When a member of this society shall die, the treasurer shall pay to the friends of such

member, the sum of twenty shillings towards her funeral expences; and every honorary member of the society shall pay sixpence, and every general member three-pence to the general fund extraordinary, at the next quarterly meeting.

No. VII.

Extract from the Rules of the Good Intent Society at Brentford, for supplying Bread and Flour at prime Cost.

THAT the above Society shall consist of 1002 shares, at two guineas each; to be applied to the erecting of a corn-mill,* and oven to manufacture

* Having been frequently referred to, for the cost of the different parts of Mr. Oxenden's mill on Barham Downs, I have applied to Mr. Stracy, who has been so obliging as to supply me with the following information.—“The Barham mill is a blessing to the parish and the neighbourhood. The following are the particulars of the expense of it.

	£. s. d.
Agreement for the mill	266 0 0
Planing the weather boarding	2 2 0
For the French stones and the regulator	25 5 0
Bolting mill or tackle	16 0 0
To sack tackle	2 10 0
Partition and case	0 18 6
Grate for hopper	0 15 0
Two stone wedges	0 5 0
Flour cloth	0 19 0
A meal chest	1 7 0
Furniture, such as scales, weights and measures, sieves, &c.	7 0 0
10 new sacks	1 17 0
Fence round the mill, to keep off cattle	5 13 6
Painting the outside	9 16 0
Plaistering the inside, to keep out wet	9 12 0
	<hr/>
	£ 350 0 0

The dimensions of the mill are as follows :

17 feet across the ground floor,

9 feet across the kirk,

25 feet along the sweep..

The millwright says that he could not now build a mill of the same dimensions for less than an advanced price of £50; as every article in building is so much increased.

1st May, 1802.

corn into flour, or bread, as shall be most convenient to the subscribers.—That the shares be divided into six divisions, each division consisting of 167 shares; and to be held at the following places, viz. *Isleworth, Brentford, Twickenham, Richmond, Hounslow, and Heston*; and no subscriber, upon any terms whatever, to hold more than three shares,—That 18 persons, called Inspectors, (three from each division,) be chosen and appointed to regulate the affairs, and inspect the accounts, and transactions of this society.—That those inspectors, when chosen, shall meet at six o'clock in the evening, the second and fourth *Mondays* in every calendar month, beginning on *Monday the 10th of August*:—The expense of building the above mill being estimated not to exceed £2000. each member to pay *two shillings and six-pence* entrance for every share he holds, and *one shilling* per week after, for every share, until he has completed the aforesaid sum of *two guineas*, exclusive of his entrance.—That, as the proposed mill will do a considerable deal more work than what is required for the subscribers only, it is therefore agreed; that it shall take in corn * of any kind to grind for hire; and

* The Rev. Dr. Glasse, who favoured the Society with this account of the Brentford Society, has communicated some further observations on *dibbling wheat*, which would perhaps have been more correctly inserted as a note to the Report, No. 74.—In July 1801, when a good deal of the other wheat was *laid* by wind and rain, the *dibbled wheat* (except about half a rood) was not at all injured, but was standing perfectly upright. Its stem was much stouter, as well as taller, than any other in the field; and its grass of a deeper green, and of much greater breadth.

that such money, so earned, shall be funded in the general stock, to defray some of the weekly expences of supporting the said mill. Likewise, that all pollards, bran, sweepings, &c. produced from the society's corn, shall be sold at a fair market price (giving a subscriber the preference) and appropriated to the same purpose as the hire-work money.—That no clerk, engineer, or other servant belonging to the society, shall, on any pretence, be allowed to grind any kind of corn, grain, or pulse, on their own account, or deal in any kind of meal whatever; but that they may have the benefit, of taking their bread or flour at the rate the subscribers have it, in proportion to their family, subject to the discretion of the general inspectors.—That each subscriber shall be entitled to receive weekly four regular quartern loaves for one share, eight for two shares, and twelve for three shares; and a subscriber may be at liberty to have either flour or bread, or both bread and flour, provided he does not exceed the limited quantity of his share, or shares; and the price of the bread * to be affixed by

* Several accounts have been given in the Reports, of successful plans for obtaining a supply of bread at a reduced price. That, at Newport Pagnel, is among those deserving of notice. Upon their general meeting on the 2d of February last, to examine and audit their accounts, they found that—selling, at that time, the best white bread at 9*½*d. the quartern loaf, the seconds at 8*d.* and the thirds at 7*d.* they were enabled to pay 5 per cent. on their shares. The subscriptions are from £5. to £30. They grind their own corn, and sell flour, bran, and pollard. They have erected a large oven, which is heated with coal at 5*d.* a time.—While they are benefiting themselves, the subscribers are doing an essential act of charity by supplying the industrious poor at a reduced price.

4th Feb. 1802.

the inspectors, according to the price of wheat, at the preceding market.—That, as soon as convenient, a piece of ground shall be purchased, and the building carried on with as much expedition as possible, in order to complete the mill ready for work; and also that, as soon as the building is begun, the premises, mill, and stock, be regularly insured.—That horses and carts be provided, which shall deliver to the subscribers, bread, or flour, at their own houses, twice per week, if within four miles of the mill; and, if above that distance, a receiving-house shall be appointed, at which place the deliverer shall leave the bread or flour of the subscribers, who live beyond the limited distance; and also that a clerk attend with the man who delivers out the bread, to receive each person's contribution, at the same time their bread or flour is delivered to them: and any person not paying his established quota, when regularly asked for it by the clerk, shall not be entitled to receive his bread or flour, until such time he has paid his full money up.—That, as this society is established for the benefit of the industrious mechanics, labourers, &c. who become subscribers thereto, it is resolved, that, if a member holds any more shares than what his own family can dispose of, such member shall not be allowed to sell such bread,* or flour, at any

* If these Reports are valuable, that value must arise from the *practical information* they contain. The preservation of those receipts, which were produced by the urgency of the late scarcity, will be among the most useful effects of their publications.—I have been favoured with the following receipt by LORD ALVANLEY.—If it could require any additional testimony from me, I could say that the

advanced price ; but, if he dispose of it, it shall be at the same rate as he receives it from the mill, giving a subscriber the preference before another person ; and if it be proved that he sells such bread or flour at any advanced price, he shall, for the first offence, forfeit and pay the sum of *five shillings*, for every loaf so sold ; and, for the second offence, he shall be excluded, and his share sold for the benefit of the general stock ; and that a subscriber shall have the preference of purchasing the share : and if there are two or more candidates for the share, it shall be ballotted for, by the inspectors for the time being.—That the office of the mill clerk be adjoining the mill door, where he shall daily attend to receive all orders, and money, for the hire-work, and pay for the same all reasonable demands upon the mill.—That the person, appointed to purchase the corn from market, shall purchase a sufficient quantity of corn to supply the subscribers with their limited quantity of bread ; which said corn shall be ground down into flour, and divided into six equal quantities, and shot into six separate bins; provided over the bakehouse for that purpose ; each bin to have a separate lock

bread made by the receipt was very good.—“ Take two pounds and a half of whole rice. Boil it in as much water as will make it into a very stiff paste. Let it stand all night ; and the next morning, knead it with fourteen pounds of wheat flour. Two handfulls of salt, and a pint of mild yeast (with the addition of very little, if any water) will make it into excellent bread. It must stand a full hour or more, to rise, before the fire ; and must be baked an hour and twenty minutes in a moderate oven. It produced 28 pounds of dough.”

31st May, 1802.

upon it, and to be locked down immediately after the flour is deposited in it, and the inspectors and clerk to keep the keys of the different bins.—That the baker shall apply to the clerk, for the key of the bin of the division he is going to bake for ; and shall clear out the bin, and make as many regular quartern loaves as the flour will admit : and the said bread to be delivered according to the tenth article ; and the overplus bread or flour in each division, (if any) shall be sold by the inspectors of the said division, to any poor person or persons,* at the society's price, giving the subscribers the preference.—That the clerk that goes round the bread delivery, shall deliver up his accounts to the mill clerk, to be regularly entered into the general account book every day, and likewise the money he has received ; and the mill clerk shall inspect his accounts, and deliver the money to the treasurer, within four hours after his receiving it from the delivery clerk ; but the mill clerk shall be intitled to keep the hire-work he receives, until each weekly meeting ; and then to account for it according to the preceding article.—That the dividing of the

* At a time when the dearness of bread is of the utmost concern to every individual in general, especially to tradesmen, mechanics, handicrafts and labourers, it is a duty incumbent on every man to study to reduce the price of that article, upon a fair and laudable plan. The plan, upon which this mill is formed, is intelligible by the lowest capacity ; it has been approved of by persons of respectability ; and it will reduce the price of bread *one-fourth*, by which means it will enable the industrious poor to support their families with considerably less expense, and will make them love the country whose laws encourage institutions, so beneficial.

flour be regularly every *Wednesday*, from eleven to one, and if any of the subscribers choose to come to see the dividing thereof, they may have a free admittance to the mill, as likewise at all other times that the mill is at work; and the subscribers shall be answered all questions they may think proper to ask, relating to the management of the mill, upon producing their certificates.

No. VIII.

Copy of Certificate from several Physicians of Hospitals and Dispensaries in London; dated April 9th, 1801, as to the Prevalence of the Infectious Fever in the Metropolis.

HAVING been desired to state our sentiments, on the situation of the poor, with respect to contagion, We declare that the *infectious, malignant fever* is at all times prevalent among the poor of the metropolis, in whose habitations it has a constant tendency to diffuse itself more widely,—that it often extends from them into those of the higher orders; —that it derives its origin principally from the neglect of cleanliness and ventilation ;—and that its communication from the persons first attacked to the other members of a family, is an almost necessary consequence of the crowded state of the dwellings of the poor.

Altho the present season of the year is not that at which, in general, *Typhus* chiefly prevails, yet we know that, at this time, many persons are daily suffering from its attacks; and we are of opinion that the evils, which result to individuals, and to the community, from this circumstance, are of such magnitude, as to render it necessary that they should be immediately remedied. We believe that, in many instances, the infection of a family, and of a neighbourhood, is owing to contagion, introduced

by a single person; and that it might have been prevented by his timely removal. We are therefore satisfied that the evils above-mentioned would, in a great measure, be obviated by the establishment of an institution, which should have for its objects,—the removal of persons attacked by contagious fever, from situations where, if they remain, the infection of others is inevitable;—and the cleansing and purifying of the apartments, furniture, and clothes, of those, in whose habitations a contagious disease has subsisted, or is likely to appear.

We conceive that the present number of patients labouring under *typhus* and other contagious diseases in London, can only be estimated from numerous individual communications.

Rich. Budd, M. D.

J. Latham, M. D.

(St. Bartholomew's Hospital.)

John Cooke, M. D.

Wm. Hamilton, M. D.

Algh. Frampton, M. D.

(London Hospital.)

Rich. Temple, M. D.

(New Finsbury Dispensary)

Rob. Willan, M. D.

T. A. Murray, M. D.

(Public Dispensary.)

Wm. Saunders, M. D.

John Relfh, M. D.

Wm. Babington, M. D.

(Guy's Hospital.)

Joseph Hart Myers, M. D.

P. Elliot, M. D.

(General Dispensary, Aldersgate.)

Samuel Foart Simmons, M. D.

(Westminster General Dispensary.)

J. Reid, M. D.

(Old Finsbury Dispensary.)

No. IX.

The following regulations have been proposed by Dr. Haygarth, for the prevention of Infectious Fever in the Metropolis, by means of Fever-Wards in Hospitals, at the Expense, and under the Direction, of a Society, or Board of Health:

I. THAT a reward of or be given to the person, who brings the first information to the society, that an infectious fever has attacked any family: and that this reward be increased to or if the intelligence be given within or days after the fever first began in the family.

II. That the patient, who is ill of the fever, be removed to the hospital on the day when such information is given. That he be carried in a sedan-chair of a peculiar colour, to be employed solely for this purpose; with a moveable linen lining which is always to be taken out and shaken in the fresh air after it has been used, and to be frequently washed: and that the sedan be constructed in such a manner, as to lean backward in various degrees, so that the patients may lie in a recumbent, or half recumbent posture, as may best suit their strength.

III. That a main purpose of the society be to remove from the infectious house the *first* patient who is attacked; and as *soon* as possible. When two or more patients are ill of such fevers, in the same chamber, there can be little hopes of preserving the remainder of the family from infection. If

whole families be removed into the hospital, it would be soon crowded with patients; and yet, in no respect, could answer the purpose of preventing fevers. Exceptions to this regulation should never be allowed, unless in circumstances of peculiar distress, or where the fever-wards have room to spare for the purpose.

IV. That the house, whence the patient is removed to the fever-ward, be immediately cleansed; and all the dirty clothes, utensils, &c. be immersed in cold water. That, when the clothes are wrung out of it, they be exchanged for clean second-hand clothes, as a shirt for a shirt, or a sheet for a sheet, &c. to be supplied by the charitable society; and every box, drawer, &c. in the infectious house be emptied and cleansed: that the floor be swept clean, and then rubbed with a wet cloth or mop; and that fresh air be admitted so as to pass thro' the chamber between a door and a window;* and the walls be whitewashed.

V. That the clothes received from these poor people, wrung out of cold water, be again washed in cold water at the storehouse for clothes of the society, and then in soap and warm water: that, when patched and cleaned, they may be again employed.

VI. That a medical inspector be appointed to see these regulations executed, at a competent

* Might not a leaden casement or other cheap contrivance be fixed in a window of each room, at the expense of the landlord, or society, to supply fresh air, which is most essential for the prevention of infection?

salary ; together with certain rewards according to the success of his measures : that he be entitled to a reward of or guineas for each family, which has been preserved from infection by his attention, when one in it had been attacked by the fever.

VII. That each poor family, whose house has been cleansed as here directed (according to a *certificate* from the *inspector*, which is to specify *every* circumstance above mentioned in the 4th regulation) shall be intitled to a reward of or :

: and that, if the remainder of the family continue uninfected for six weeks after the first fever-patient has been removed to the hospital, the said family be entitled to a farther reward of or : that the inspector shall give the family a promissory note for this purpose.

VIII. That the inspector keep a register of infectious fevers upon the same plan as was adopted with success for six years by the inspector of the Small Pox Society at Chester :—which is to enter, 1st, the patient's name ; 2d, street ; 3d, occupation ; 4th, when the fever began ; 5th, number ill of fever in each family ; 6th, date of information ; 7th, date of removal ; 8th, whence infected ; 9th, when washed and aired ; 10th, family infected, or preserved ; 11th, regulations observed or transgressed.

IX. That a copy of these, or more complete regulations, be printed upon one page, and be placed in every house infected by a fever, and in every house in the neighbourhood, which is in

danger of receiving the infection. By such instructions, poor people will be enabled to give timely notice to the society so as to avert the dreadful calamities which they would otherwise suffer.

OBSERVATIONS.

The benefit of these regulations to preserve poor families from all the variety of wretchedness occasioned by infectious fevers, will be exactly in proportion to the spirit and punctuality with which they are executed.

The zealous, judicious, and successful exertions of the Board of Health at Manchester, afforded the fullest confirmation of the principles and the practical conclusions which Dr. Haygarth has detailed in his Letter, lately published and addressed to Dr. Percival, on the Prevention of Infectious Fevers, p. 108, 109, 110. The facts there stated prove, beyond all controversy, that the regulations above recommended, if faithfully executed, can suppress infectious fevers in a most wonderful manner. But it is manifest that fever-wards, for the reception of poor people, unaided by measures to purify their habitations, will answer this purpose in a very imperfect manner.

No. X.

Copy of Act passed in 1692, by the Province of Massachusetts Bay, for the Support of FREE-SCHOOLS.

BE IT ENACTED, That every town within this province, having the number of 50 householders or upwards, shall be constantly provided of a schoolmaster, to teach children and youth to read and write. And where any town or towns have the number of 100 families, or householders, there shall also be a grammar-school * set up in every such town, and some discreet person of good conversation, well instructed in the tongues, procured to keep such school; every such schoolmaster to be suitably encouraged and paid by the inhabitants.

AND the select men and inhabitants of such towns respectively, shall take effectual care, and make due provision, for the settlement and maintenance of such schoolmaster and masters.

AND if any town, qualified as before expressed, shall neglect the due observance of this act, for the procuring and settling of any such schoolmaster as

* Many of these *free-schools* were kept by young men, who had just taken their bachelor's degree, at Harvard College, and were looking forward to *holy orders*; filling up this interval with occupation, which, at the same time that it offered a supply towards the expense of their education, afforded not merely a preparation for the general object to which they were to be devoted, but a personal and practical knowledge of those persons, for whom, and for whose religious instruction, they were to be ordained.

aforesaid, by the space of one year; every such defective town shall incur the penalty of ten pounds for every conviction of such neglect, upon complaint made unto their Majesty's justices in quarter sessions for the same county, in which such defective town lieth; which penalty shall be towards the support of such school or schools within the same county, where there may be most need, at the discretion of the justices in quarter sessions; to be levied by warrant from the said court of sessions, in proportion, upon the inhabitants of such defective town, as other public charges, and to be paid unto the county treasurer.

No. XI.

Account of the Asylum of Maternity at Paris. By an English Physician.

THE ASYLM OF MATERNITY, which is substituted for the late Foundling Hospital at Paris,* is composed of two distinct departments, that of the *lying-in*, and that of the *suckling*, each of which occupies a separate building. The lying-in rooms are kept very clean, and perfectly well aired ; and they contain not more than six women, each. The number of women confined, at the same time, in the hospital is, upon an average, about 200 ; but there are, in general, fewer in summer than in winter. Pregnant women require no other title, in order to be received, but to have passed the eighth month of their pregnancy, and to be free from infection of the venereal disease.

The total number of women, annually delivered in this hospital, is 1500 ; so that there are daily

* There are in Paris about 17,500 distressed persons, dispersed in 19 hospitals; and, reckoning three others, which, altho connected with the town, do not especially belong to it, a total number of 20,000 assisted sick and infirm may be reckoned in the capital. It is said that the whole annual expense of these hospitals to government does not exceed six millions of livres, or about £250,000. sterling. But this is probably a very uncertain calculation. Among these establishments, there are some few that have for a length of time been celebrated, either by their immediate utility, or, by the philosophic spirit to which they owe their birth. Such are the institutions for the education of the deaf and dumb, and for that of the industrious blind.

four or five children born in the house. Of 1500 women delivered in this hospital, but six or seven die annually, provided there is no contagious distemper. A female performs the office of midwife; the person at present employed is a sensible woman, and has every appearance of a good education. There is a separate room for those who are in the pains of child-birth: and another contiguous, for the moment of delivery: we found in the latter three children who had been within a few minutes brought into the world.—The women who, during their confinement, are attacked by any disease independant of their lying-in, are removed into an upper set of rooms, where they are attended by the physician of the institution. The infirmary appeared to me to be less judiciously conducted than any other part of the establishment.

The suckling department (which is near the former) is by far the most considerable. The plan of it is very ingenious; but I observed that there is neither so much order, or cleanliness, in the detail. It is true that, notwithstanding the extent of the building, it is much more populous in proportion than the other: mothers, nurses, children, all in continual motion, noise, and crying. This department is occupied by four different classes of people: first, by mothers; who, after being delivered in the other building, are permitted to suckle each, her own infant; and are themselves supported, on condition of their consenting to suckle, (besides their own) another child, which the institution confides to their care. But, of the number

of women annually delivered in the asylum, there are not above 20, who are willing to remain on this condition. The others prefer either carrying away their children, or leaving them at the asylum to the care of a wet nurse.

Secondly, all children exposed, or abandoned, are received ; but in general, parents, in abandoning their offspring, give in to the director a judicial attestation, of their name, and the day of their birth ; and it very seldom happens, that a child is found simply exposed at the gates of the hospital, without any attestation. In this case, however, the child is always received ; but search is made after the person, who brought it ; who is arrested, if discovered.

Thirdly, there is a certain number of wet nurses received into the hospital, equal to the number of children to be nursed there ; but there is but a small proportion of children, brought in the house itself : the greatest number are sent into the country, where they are suckled, and taken care of, under certain stipulated conditions.

Fourthly, the nurses, who come into the house to suckle the children of others, bring their own children with them, and continue to nurse them during the time they remain in the house ; so that the number of children is thus almost doubled. These, as well as those who come with their new-born children from the lying-in department, are called *stationary nurses*, in opposition to those in the country, whom I have just mentioned. The total number of children, annually born, and re-

ceived into this hospital, and supported at its expense, is between five and six thousand. There are at all times in the house about 250 children; which, reckoning in addition the children of the wet nurses, will make a total number of 500. I should not omit mentioning that, in the suckling department, there is one particular room appropriated to the purpose of receiving the new born children, and feeding them, until they are provided with nurses. This deposit of infants, to the number of 50 or 60, who are all in their cradles, ranged in lines, and successively fed with a suckling pot by a dozen of nurses, forms a most singular spectacle. One of the *sisters of charity*, (a religious order celebrated for its humane activity in relieving the sick, is at the head of this department. I was sorry to observe, that the children are still wrapped in swaddling clothes, in order to diminish the necessary number of attendants.

The country nurses, who are much more numerous than those that are stationary, are spread over the country to the distance of 30 or 40 leagues from the capital. They are chosen and engaged by a set of people in the pay of the institution, who are called *carriers*; because they carry the children to the nurses. They are likewise commissioned to superintend their treatment, by visiting them from time to time.

The conditions, on which the infants are confided to the care of the country nurses, are very singular. The nurses are allowed 5*s.* 10*d.* per month, during the first year; 5*s.* during the second, and following

years, till the child has attained the age of seven; and only 4*s. 2d.* a month, from the age of seven to that of twelve. From that period, I believe, they receive no other emolument, than such service as the child is able to perform. At the age of 16, the child is completely emancipated; and the nurse is liberated from her engagements. During the course of this education, the nurse receives gratis for the child seven complete suits of clothing; but in adding that expense, to that of the board, the education of every child costs the establishment not more (every thing included) than the sum of 1017. livres; or about 40 guineas. Having attained the age of 16, and becoming perfect masters of their actions, these young people frequently choose to remain with their adopted mothers. It sometimes happens, that the real parents claim their children at the asylum, before the term of emancipation; but, unless both the child and the nurse consent to part, the parents are not informed of its retreat; and they do not often succeed, in recovering the children, which they have abandoned. As soon as they have completed their 16th year, they present themselves at the office of the institution, to be informed of their name, of that of their parents, and to obtain a certificate of their birth.

18th Feb. 1801.

No. XII.

An Account of the Fisheries in the West of England.
By HENRY BOASE, Esq.

THE early *Mackerel* Fishery commences about the end of February, and lasts till June. About 100 boats are usually employed from Mount's Bay, and St. Ives, in Cornwall, of from 12 to 18 tons burthen, and six to eight men each. This fishery commences at a great distance towards the Western Ocean, at first quite out of sight of land, and gradually nears the coast as the season advances. The fish are caught in what are called drift nets, about two fathoms broad, which hang perpendicularly in the water, floated by cork, and sunk at the foot-rope by leads. In the meshes of these nets, the mackarel hang by the gills. Each boat has from 500 to 800 fathoms in length of such nets; consequently the whole fleet covers a vast tract of sea: but there is room enough for all possible increase of boats.

About 500 fish to each boat, and four voyages a week (say 2000 a week each) may be reckoned a moderate season. Sometimes there is more than double that quantity: but the distance from land, and the frequent storms in the early season, render the fishery precarious; and the far greater part of the early fish comes fresh to the London and other markets, rather as an object of luxury, than as a

considerable supply of food. It is obvious, however, that it might be greatly increased, tho' it is to be feared the price would continue to be high.

As the shoals approach the coast the fish decrease in size; insomuch that, when the summer fishery on the Sussex coast begins, the mackerel seem actually of a different species. But, within a few years, there has been an *autumn* mackerel fishery, on the Cornish coast; when the fish is again more than as much larger, and fatter, than the early spring mackerel, as these are than the summer fish; and vast quantities have been taken, and cured, for the West India market.

The method properly practised by the *Dieppe* mackerel fishermen, seems most likely to answer the society's views. Their boats were much larger than ours; and carried to sea with them salt; and, as fast as they caught fish, they gutted and corned them in bulk; and, as soon as the cargo was completed, they proceeded directly to the place of discharge for the Paris market.—A very considerable quantity might, by this method, be brought to the London market in the spring; and much more in autumn, if boats and nets were provided.

Hook fish, *i. e.* such as are caught by hook and line, abound on the coasts of Cornwall and the Scilly Islands. *Ling*, *conger*, *cod*, and *pollsck* of a large size, begin to be caught soon after Christmas; and might be brought, very slightly salted, to the London market, all the spring. In summer, the same are usually dried, being very slightly salted in like manner; and will then keep for

many years, and will, indeed, grow more valuable by age.—There has been hitherto no demand for salted, and very little for dry, fish of this description ; and none of them have been brought fresh to the London market. This fishery, therefore, has not been prosecuted beyond the daily wants of the neighbourhood : but it is probable that it will afford a source, absolutely inexhaustible as to quantity of fish, and, in quality, very nearly approaching to the strength of shamble meat.

The *pilchard* fishery begins at Midsummer ; and immense shoals do sometimes visit the Western coasts. These are, however, so valuable, and are so preferable an article of commerce in the Mediterranean, to whatever extent we can procure them, and may be so easily spared from the various and inexhaustible store of other fish, that it will probably be thought wise not to look to them as an article of *home supply*. With them there come vast swarms of the *bake*, a fish unknown in the London market ; larger and much preferred to the *haddock*, in the West of England. Almost any quantity of it might be brought to market, fresh, corned, or dried. During the same season, *crabs* and *lobsters*, as well as flat fish, such as *soles*, *plaice*, (and some *turbot*) *skait*, *maids*, &c. all admirably calculated for coming fresh to very distant markets, abound on these coasts. An almost infinite variety of other fish, presents a fund both of food and wealth, without any probable limit.

The Nymph bank approaches near to the Scilly Isles on the west side, and it has been always the

opinion of the Cornish fishermen, that it teems with excellent cod.—The Scilly Islands possess one of the best ports in Great Britain. They have been hitherto of little value to the proprietor, the Duke of Leeds; and less to the nation, being little more than a nest of smugglers. As a fishing station, their value would be inestimable.

20th Dec. 1801.

No. XIII.

Account of the Moravian Converts, at the Cape of Good Hope: from Mr. Barrow's Travels into the Interior of Southern Africa, in 1797, and 1798.

EARLY in the morning I was awakened by the noise of some of the finest voices I had ever heard; and, on looking out, saw a group of female Hottentots sitting on the ground. It was Sunday, and they had assembled thus early to chant the morning hymn. They were all neatly dressed in printed cotton gowns. A sight so very different to what we had hitherto been in the habit of observing, with regard to this unhappy class of beings, could not fail of being grateful; and, at the same time, it excited a degree of curiosity, as to the nature of the establishment. The good fathers, who were three in number, were well disposed to satisfy every question put to them. They were men of the middle age, plain and decent in their dress, cleanly in their persons, of modest manners, meek and humble in their deportment, but intelligent and lively in conversation, zealous in the cause of their mission, but free from bigotry or enthusiasm. Every thing about the place partook of that neatness and simplicity which were the strongest features in the outline of their character. The

church they had constructed was a plain neat building; their mill for grinding corn was superior to any in the colony; their garden was in high order, and produced abundance of vegetables for the use of the table. Almost every thing that had been done, was by the labour of their own hands. Agreeably to the rules of the society, of which they were members, each had learnt some useful profession. One was well skilled in every branch of smith's work, the second was a shoemaker, and the third a taylor.

These missionaries have succeeded in bringing together into one society, more than six hundred Hottentots; and their members are daily increasing. These live in small huts, dispersed over the valley; to each of which was a patch of ground for raising vegetables. Those who had first joined the society, had the choicest situations at the upper end of the valley, near the church, and their houses and gardens were very neat and comfortable; numbers of the poor in England not so good, and few better. Those Hottentots, who choose to learn their respective trades, were paid for their labour, as soon as they could earn wages. Some hired themselves out by the week, month, or year, to the neighbouring peasantry; others made mats and brooms for sale: some bred poultry, and others found means to subsist by their cattle, sheep, and horses. Many of the women and children of soldiers, belonging to the Hottentot corps, reside at Bavian's Kloof; where they are much more likely

to acquire industrious habits, than by remaining in the camp,

On Sundays, they all regularly attend the performance of divine service; and it is astonishing, how ambitious they are to appear at church, neat and clean. Of the three hundred, or thereabouts, that composed the congregation, about half were dressed in coarse printed cottons, and the other half in the ancient sheep-skin dresses; and it appeared, on inquiry, that the former were the first who had been brought within the pale of the church; a proof that their circumstances, at least, had suffered nothing from their change of life. Persuasion and example had convinced them, that cleanliness in their persons, not only added much to the comforts of life, but was one of the greatest preservatives of health; and that the little trifle of money they had to spare, was much better applied in procuring decent covering for the body, than in the purchase of spirits and tobacco.

The deportment of the Hotentot congregation, during divine service, was truly devout. The discourse, delivered by one of the fathers, was short; but replete with good sense, pathetic, and well suited to the occasion: tears flowed abundantly from the eyes of those to whom it was particularly addressed. The females sung in a style that was plaintive and affecting; and their voices were, in general, sweet and harmonious. Not more than fifty had been admitted members of the Christian faith, by the ceremony of baptism. There appeared

to be no violent zeal on the part of the fathers, which is the case with most other missionaries, to swell the catalogue of converts to Christianity; being more solicitous to teach their trades to such as might choose to learn them.

No. XIV.

Copy of a Letter from Sir Henry Vavasour to Lord Carrington, containing an Account of a Cottager keeping a Cow, by the produce of arable Land only.

MY LORD,

London, May, 20th, 1801.

I HAVE had the honour of mentioning, in conversation to your Lordship, the advantages that appeared to me, in cultivating land in the Flemish manner, or, what is now called, about Fulham and that neighbourhood, the *Field-gardening* husbandry. I have for some years encouraged my cottagers in Yorkshire, in this mode of managing their small garths or gardens, which are in general, from one to three acres, and I have, now, an opportunity of stating the husbandry of a poor industrious cottager's garth. As the man can neither read or write, these particulars have been transmitted to me, from his own mouth; and, as I saw his land almost every day during the last harvest, I can vouch, that this account is not far from the truth.

Produce.	Value.	A. R.	P.
240 Bushels of potatoes	£. 24 0 0	0 2	0
60 Ditto of carrots	- - 6 0 0	0 1	0
5 Quarter of oats, at 44s. per quarter	- - 11 0 0	0 3	20
4 Loads of clover, part in hay, part cut green	- 12 0 0	1 0	10
Turnips	- - - 1 0 0	0 0	20
In garden-stuff for the fa- mily, viz. beans, peas, cabbages, leeks, &c.	- 0 0 0	0 0	30
	£. 54 0 0*	3 0	3
Deduct rent - £. 9 0 0	Including the house.		
Seeds, &c. - 3 0 0			
Value of labour 10 10 0			

— Produce before stated.

£. 23 2 0	£. 54 0 0
	23 2 0

Profit £. 30 18 0 if
sold at market, exclusive of butter.

His stock was two cows and two pigs; one of his cows had a summer's gait for twenty weeks with his landlord.—The land was partly ploughed, and partly dug with the spade; cultivated (the ploughing excepted) by the man, his wife, and a girl about twelve years of age, in their *spare hours* from their daily *hired work*, seldom a whole day

* These sums are conformable to the prices of this year; but it is evident that, in other seasons, they must in general, be lower.—The cottager's name is Thomas Rook.

off, except in harvest—made the rent in butter, besides a little used in the family.—The man relates that he thinks he clears, one year with another, from the three acres, about £.30. The daily wages his family earns, about keep them. It is very evident that this man clears from his three acres more than a farmer can possibly lay by from more than eighty acres of land, in the common husbandry of the country, paying for horses, servants, &c. and it must be obvious to every one how great the advantages must be to society, by cultivating in this manner. It would have taken more than half the quantity of his three acres in pasture, for one cow at grass, during half the year; whereas (excepting the summer's gait for one of his cows, as mentioned before) his stock of two cows and two pigs, is kept and carried on the whole year. The family lives well, and a handsome sum has been yearly saved, to place out two sons, and to supply them with clothes, washing, &c.

I am, &c.

HENRY VAVASOUR,

No. XV.

The following Case on the 43d of Elizabeth, being the Act for the Relief of the Poor, with the subjoined Opinion and Notes, has been presented to the Society. Without entering at all into the Question of its Authenticity, the Committee has deemed it worthy of a Place in the Appendix to the third Volume, and recommends it to the Reader's Perusal, as containing some useful Information on this very important Subject.

Case on the Act for the Relief of the Poor, submitted to the opinion of Mr. Serjeant Snigge.

By an Act made in the Parliament holden at The Act in Westminster in the Three and fortieh Question. Year of the late Queen Elizabeth of famous Memory (and since continued by His most excellent Majesty) being intituled "AN ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF THE POOR," It is enacted among other Things, that the Churchwardens of every Parish, and Four, Three, or Two, SUBSTANTIAL Householders * there, &c. —

* The reader will probably pardon me for not having inserted here the whole of the Act, as was done in the original Case. The words referred to, are generally stated in Serjeant Snigge's Opinion : and all the material parts of the Act are added in a note.

The Parish of E, in the County of B, is very opulent and extensive; and, on Account of one of the greater Monasteries having lately existed in the adjoining Parish, has, among its Inhabitants, a considerable Number of idle and dissolute Poor. The Parish has lately had several Meetings, in order to consider, how they may carry into Execution "THE ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF THE POOR" with the least possible Trouble and Expense.—They have, in the Consequence, directed that a Case be laid before you, for your Opinion on the following Points:

Qu. I. As to that which respecteth the Appointment of Overseers: an Office which they conceive may be made a Subject of Profit and Advantage, but yet must be attended with some Trouble. The Vestry hath therefore agreed, that all the Parishioners shall take the Office successively, without any partiality on Account of supposed *Fitness* or *Responsibility*; and they desire your Opinion, whether the Justices are not compellable to appoint the Persons, whose Names shall stand first in the List delivered in by the Parish?

This Query, as seemeth to me, brancheth into two*

* This Case and Opinion have never yet been published. SIR GEORGE SNIGGE, the learned Serjeant whose Opinion is therein contained, appears from the Reports of that period, to have been highly esteemed as a sound lawyer. He was very soon after the date of this Opinion, made a Baron of the Exchequer, and was succeeded by Sir John Denham in 15 Jac. 1.—His Construction of this Statute is very opposite to what has since generally prevailed. But, if it has no merit as a legal opinion on the Act, taken at the

Parts: and first, I shall notice the latter of them. The Appointment of Overseers is an exclusive Act of the Justices; for the Neglect of which they are liable to a Penalty, and for the due Performance of which they, and they only, are responsible. If they appoint any Person, knowing him to be unfit in capacity, or insufficient in respect of Substance, (or even without a proper Inquiry as to both Fitness and Sufficiency) they do it at their own Peril; and they must keep themselves prepared to answer, for this Default, to His Majesty upon a criminal Prosecution; or, possibly, unto any of His Majesty's Subjects thereby aggrieved, and seeking Remedy by a civil Action. With regard to the proposed Plan (even though the Justices may approve it) I hold it to be directly contrary to the Meaning of the Aforesaid Act; which expresses, that the Persons to be appointed, shall be substantial Householders, and implies that they shall be Persons well fitted* for the Burthen of so weighty an Office. The Act designates for this Appointment the most proper and substantial Householders in the

time, it may, however be perused as a literary curiosity: and it is hoped, the reader will not be offended at the addition of this and a few other notes, and at the editor having taken some pains to translate it into a modern dialect; divested of those *Law French*, and *Law Latin*, quotations, and those quaint and obsolete phrases, which constituted the GRIM-GRIBBER of that day.

* When we see, in this instance, one of the most learned men of that period, maintaining such a construction of an Act of Parliament, as any justice's clerk would now treat with contempt, it must diminish with some, the reverence they have had for the eminent lawyers of that age. We may be almost led to suppose that legislators, in those days, did not understand much more of the meaning of their own acts, than they do now.

Parish; and if such Persons can be obtained to fill the office, they, and they only, should be appointed.

Qu. II. Whether the Rate, under the aforesaid II. As to the Act, should be made by the Church-making of wardens and Overseers, or as the Parish seemeth to think most meet, by the Majority of the Parishioners in the Vestry assembled?

I am of Opinion, that the Parish is not to intermeddle in the making of the Rate. The Authority to make the Rate is specially and exclusively given to the Churchwardens and Overseers, or the greater Part of them. If they raise more, or less, than is requisite, or if they make a partial and unequal Rate, no Vote of a Vestry, not even an unanimous Resolution, can be pleaded by them in Excuse for the Neglect or Misuser of a Power, which the Law hath intrusted to them, and to them only.*

Qu. III. Must not each of the Overseers in III. As to Person collect the Rates, and relieve Overseer's the Poor? or are they authorized to personal employ an Agent for that Purpose? Attendance.

If they are not, the substantial Householders in the Parish are apprehensive, that this Office will be incompatible with the necessary Attention to their own Concerns; and therefore, in that Case, would prefer the Payment of some Fine † to exempt them from serving the Office; a

* This was so declared by the Court in Tawney's Case.

† Salkeld, 531

† This disposition to place the least fit and least sufficient persons in the most material parish offices, and to let off the others on a payment or fine, seems to have existed

Circumstance that would be very acceptable to the other less substantial Householders.

The Degree of personal Attendance which is indispensably required from Overseers, is marked in the Act; viz. "that they shall meet together at the least "once every Month in the Church of the said Parish, "upon the Sunday in the Afternoon after divine Service, there to consider of some good Course to be taken, and of some meet Order to be set down in the Premises." It is to be observed, that the Time fixed for the Overseers Attendance is on Sunday Afternoon, because it doth not interfere with his other Avocations. The Penalty also for Non-attendance, is fixed by the Act: and I consider this Meeting, as a special Committee of the principal Householders of the Parish, assembled in Order to consider and determine upon proper Measures (to be adopted with the Consent of Two or more neighbouring Justices of the Peace) for the Employment of those in their Parish who can work, and for raising Money for the Relief of those

in that day, as well as in the present. SHAKSPEARE alludes to it in his play of Measure for Measure (written about this time) where ESCALUS tells ELBOW,—“They do you wrong to put you so oft upon’t: are there not men in your ward sufficient to serve it?

“ELBOW. Faith, sir, few of any wit in such matters: as they are chosen they are glad to choose me for them; I do it for some piece of money, and go through with all.

ESCALUS. Look you, bring me in the names of some six or seven THE MOST SUFFICIENT in your parish.”—SHAKSPEARE seems to have had this Act in view; and to have considered the list given in, as a mere return of the FACT, who were the MOST SUFFICIENT in the parish; and the appointment to be made by ESCALUS and the other JUSTICE of such as were not only most sufficient, but in their opinion the most fit.

who cannot, and for placing out poor Children in such a Way that they may obtain by their Industry an honest and Competent Livelyhood. At these Meetings, it will be incumbent on THIS SPECIAL COMMITTEE, composed of the Churchwardens and Overseers, to make proper Minutes of the Plans they adopt, of the Sums agreed to be raised, and of the Relief, &c. to be given; and then to employ a Person (for whose Conduct, as they are responsible, they should take a Security) to make such weekly or other Collections, in Order to purchase Materials to employ the Poor, and for other Purposes, and to do such other Acts until their next Meeting, as they shall specially authorise; and I conceive that they may allow to such their Agent and Collector a proper, though not an excessive, Compensation for the same. But that they should personally collect the Rates, or execute any ministerial Part of their Office which is incompatible with the other Duties and Engagements of a substantial Householder, is, in my Conception, not required by the Act; any more than they should medically attend the Sick, or personally move the Lame or Impotent, in case a Change of Place became requisite.

Qu. IV. You are desired to advise whether the IV. Who is Quantum and Mode of Relief should to direct the Mode, &c. not be directed by a Majority of Pa- of Relief. rishioners in Vestry assembled?

This is partly answered in my Reply to the preceding Question. I think it proper, however, to add, that it will be prudent for them, in their general Plan, to act with the Consent of Two or more neighbouring Justices. If they act right, they will want no

Concurrence of the Parish. If they do wrong, no Act of the Parish will protect them against a criminal Prosecution.

Qu. V. Albeit we have many idle and dissolute V. Of rating Poor, yet we have some very honest the Poor. and industrious Labourers, who do reside in Cottages, and subsist, and bring up their Families, entirely by their own Industry. If, therefore, the Cottages of these industrious Labourers (which in fact are their Houses) can be assessed to the Support of those who are idle and dissolute, it will in some degree lighten the Rate as to the Householders ; and at the worst can only bring some of the industrious Poor upon the Parish.—Your Opinion is therefore desired upon this Point ?

This Act enumerates “ Lands, Houses, Tithes, Mines, and saleable Underwoods,” as the Objects of the Rate. If these industrious Cottagers occupy any Lands, Houses, or other Property that comes within the Words afore-rehearsed, I am inclined to think that they may in Point of Law, be assessed for the same ; notwithstanding they support their Families chiefly by their daily Labour, and therefore come under the general Description of Poor. But where a poor Man doth sustain himself and his Family merely by the Sweat of his Brow, and doth only occupy some Hut, Hovel, or Cottage, as a Place of Refuge and Shelter during his Rest from Labour, it would be a monstrous Position that, for that Cottage, and for a*

* Those who wish to see how far COTTAGES can legally

few Herbs growing round it, he not possessing any Property specified in the Act, he should be assessed to the Rate for the RELIEF of the Poor. Instead of encouraging Diligence in Cottagers, it would destroy all their Industry.. It would compel them all to become Pensioners upon their Parish ; and convert an Act, expressly declared to be “for the Relief of the Poor,” into the Instrument of odious and unprincipled Oppression.

Qu. VI. It hath been proposed by some of the VI. As to a Parishioners, that, in order to make the Scale for Relief as impartial as possible, Notice Relief. should be sent to the Labourers in the Parish, to give in, each, an Account of what they are disposed to earn, and of their Number in each Family, and then to relieve them all with Money, by a Scale to be fixed ; so as that All may fare alike, whether industrious or idle, and whether they earn much or little.—Your Opinion is intreated upon this Point ?

I deem that this would be a Perversion of the Act, so as to make it an Incitement to Vice and Idleness.

be included under the description of HOUSES, may consult Lord Coke's 2d Institute, p. 736.—The distinctions are curious.—It appears that any person converting a house into a cottage, except under special circumstances, was (by 31 Eliz.) subject to a penalty of ten pounds ; that certain restrictions in another act (35 Eliz.) were applicable to cottagers and not to householders ; and, in another instance, to some COTTAGES in country places, but not to cottages in cities and boroughs, nor to any houses whatsoever.—In short, by these two Acts passed just before the 43d of Elizabeth, and by Lord Coke's second Institute written a few years after it, cottages and houses appear to have been then considered as perfectly distinct and distinguishable from each other.

The Industry of Man must be awakened by the Call of Necessity; and if he who earneth little is to fare as well, and to have his Family as plentifully kept, as he who labourcth hard and earneth much, all Induce-ment to Labour among the Poor will be taken away; and the Realm will be rendered torpid by a grievous Lethargy, as the Mantuan Swan doth sweetly sing. Upon referring to the Act, the Parish will see that it is the Duty of the Overseers, at their Meetings, there to consider of some Course to be taken for affording Occupation to the Poor, so as to enable them to main-tain themselves and their Families. If a Labourer, therefore, working with due Diligence and Industry, cannot (on Account of any Hurt received, or from Feebleness of Body, or from any other Cause) earn Sustenance for himself and his Family, he may then be deemed "imotent;" that is unable, or not having Power, to maintain himself and Family; and as such, may come within the Description in the preceding Section, and be an Object of pecuniary Relief; but not otherwise.*

Qu. VII. The Parish conceives that the House-holders, proposed by them, and ap-VII. As to the Church- pointed by the Magistrates, are to wardens. undertake the whole Burthen and Trust of the Office; the Churchwardens being named in the Act *pro Forma tantum*: and that no

* VIRGIL. The following I presume to be the passage, alluded to by the learned Serjeant.

"————— Pater ipse colendi

"Haud facilem esse viam voluit: primusque per artem

"Movit agros, curis accuens Mortalia Corda:

"NECTOR PERE GRAVI passus sua REGNA VETERNO."

Meetings of the Overseers, as such, are necessary; but that each should take one separate District of the Parish; and therein collect and apply the Rates as he thinks proper. — What say you to this Article?

I have already said that the Overseers are to meet together at stated Times. It is their duty then to consult and agree, how this Act may be best executed, for the permanent Improvement of the Morals, Industry, and Welfare, of the Poor; so as to lessen the Aggregate of Vice and Misery, to diminish the Call for Relief, and to supply the Labourer, within the Precincts of his own Cottage, with the Means of Subsistence, the Incitement to Industry, and the Principles of Religion. To this Duty, the Churchwardens are as strictly bound, as any of the other Overseers. They are equally responsible for the due Performance of this weighty and honourable Trust. And each of them, pari Passu, is answerable for the Execution of this Office, in every Part of the Parish; so far as he is not lett and impeded by Sickness or other just Excuse, or controuled by the Voice of the Majority, which in this, as in other Cases, must prevail.

Qu. VIII. There hath been no Provision made VIII. As to in the aforesaid Parish, for the Em-apprenticing ployment and Instruction of the Children. Children of the Poor. This is alledged by some to be one Reason, why the Parish is infested by about Two Hundred and Thirty idle and profligate Children. The Friends, however, of the Parish hope to turn this Circumstance to good Account; as they have received a Proposal from a

Settler of one of his Majesty's newly discovered Islands, to take them all as * Apprentices, under the aforesaid Act, by one Indenture; and not only to pay for the Baskets in which they are to be shipped, but to allow the Parish *one Noble* for each Child; a Sum that is computed to be sufficient, not only to pay the Parish Rates of the Year, but also to divide something among those who attend the Vestry.

The Act of Her late Majesty hath directed competent Sums of Money to be raised for (inter Alia) the placing out of Children to be Apprentices; thereby expressing, and not merely implying, that Parish Children are not to be sold or made away with; but that Expense is to be incurred in apprenticing them: including first, the Expense of preparing and clothing them for an Apprenticeship; and secondly, the Fee or Reward that shall be paid to a proper Master, for receiving them, and instructing them in an honest and useful Trade.

Qu. IX. Some of the more wealthy Farmers in the Parish have devised a skilful Mode, by which almost all the Trouble of executing this Act might be avoided. They have proposed that we shall erect a Prison in the Parish; and then give Notice in the Neighbourhood, that if any Persons are disposed to farm the Poor of this Parish; they do give in sealed Proposals on a certain Day, of the lowest Price at

* Something like this has been lately practised upon a very great scale; affording relief and emolument to some conscientious parishes, while it has contributed to people those invaluable schools of morality, the cotton mills.

which they will take them off our Hands ; and that they be authorised to refuse Relief to any one, unless he will be shut up in the aforesaid Prison. The Proposers of this Plan conceive, that there will be found in the adjoining Counties, Persons who, being unwilling to labour, and not possessing Substance or Credit to take a Farm or Shop so as to live without Labour, may be induced to make a very advantageous Offer to the Parish. If any of the Poor perish under the Contractor's Care, the Sin will lie at his Door, as the Parish will have done their Duty by them. We are however apprehensive, that the present Act may not warrant a *prudential* Measure of this kind : but you are to learn, that the Rest of the Freeholders of the County, and the adjoining County of B, will very readily join in instructing their Members, to propose an Act to enable the Parish to contract with a Person, to lock up and Work the Poor ; and to declare that if any poor Person shall refuse to be so locked up and worked, he shall be intitled to no Relief.* This it is to be hoped will prevent Persons in distress from *wanting* Relief ; and so be the means of keeping down the Parish Rates ?

It is a just Suspect of the Parish, that such a Measure, as they allude to, will not be warranted by the Act. And I deem too highly of the Wisdom and

* This statute, *for farming the poor*, was not obtained from Parliament until 120 years after this opinion was given ; being soon after the South Sea bubble. The words in the Act correspond so exactly with those used in this *Query*, that I cannot but suspect, that the *benevolent* framers of that Act must have had a copy of this Case and Opinion before them.

Integrity of the High Court of Parliament, to surmise that they will give their Sanction to any such Doings. Should any Persons ever be so weak and wicked as to propound, or even to Vote for, such a Law, they will be answerable in Conscience, not only for every poor Person who may die, but also for every Instance of suffering, or depravity, in Consequence of it. It is true, that in Case the Price of the Necessaries of Life be lowered after the Contract entered into, the Contractor may thrive, and yet the Poor may not suffer; but if those Articles rise in Price, it is not possible for a needy Vagabond to supply the Difference. In such Hands the Poor must unavoidably perish.—Again, I would observe that when, under Sickness or temporary Distress, a poor Man is to be sent hopeless into such a Place of Confinement, his Spirit must in most Instances be broken, and he become a Burthen to his Parish for Life.

Qu. X. As some difference of Opinion prevails, X. As to the you are prayed to give your Advice on general Con- the Purview and Spirit of the afore- struction of said Act of Her Late Majesty; and to the Act.

counsel the Parish, as to the general Construction thereof, and how it may be executed most advantageously for the Parish?

I have already given my Opinion so fully, upon detached Parts of the Act, that I may be more general in my Answer to this Query.—IN THE FIRST PLACE, this Act is intituled and declared to be “AN ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF THE POOR;” and therefore it must be construed most beneficially for them; that is so as to improve their Morals, excite

their Industry, reform their Habits, and increase their Means of Life; and thus to relieve them; that is (as by the original Latin Term * relevare is intended) to raise up and restore them, as useful Members of the Community.—SECONDLY, I observe on this Act,† that by the POOR are designated those,

* In this sentence, as given in Sir George's original language, there is a beauty and delicacy, which is not attainable in modern English. Indeed there are so many other passages in the learned Serjeant's opinion, that would afford delight to the ANTIQUARIAN, and to the *black letter lawyer*, that it is proposed to submit the original manuscript to the inspection of the Public, as soon as an apartment is ready, which is now fitting up in Norfolk street. I have added a specimen of Sir George Snigge's hand writing at the end.

† I have subjoined the two first Sections of the Act, for the Reader to refer to, without the trouble of taking down the Statute Book.

“ BE IT ENACTED by the authority of this present Parliament, that the CHURCHWARDENS of every parish, and four, three, or two, SUBSTANTIAL HOUSEHOLDERS there, as shall be thought meet, having respect to the proportion and greatness of the same parish and parishes, to be nominated yearly in Easter week, or within one month after Easter, under the hand and seal of two or more justices of the peace in the same county, whereof one to be of the quorum, dwelling in or near the same parish or division where the same parish doth lie, shall be called OVERSEERS OF THE POOR of the same parish: and they, or the greater part of them, shall take order from time to time, by and with the consent of two or more justices of peace as is aforesaid, for setting to work the children of all such whose parents shall not by the said Churchwardens and Overseers, or the greater part of them, be thought able to keep and maintain their children; and also for setting to work all such persons married or unmarried, having no means to maintain them, and use no ordinary and daily trade of life to get their living by: and also to raise weekly or otherwise, (by taxation of every inhabitant, parson, vicar, and other, and of every occupier of lands, houses, tithes *impropriate, propriations of tithes, coal-mines, or saleable underwoods*, in the said parish, in such competent sum and sums of money as they shall think fit,) a con-

who derive their Sustenance from daily Labour; and not from any Art, Mystery, Profession, or Property: and that these are the Persons, who are intended to be benefited by this Act; and for whose Relief, Rates, are to be raised upon the other Members of the Community.—THIRDLY, it is most advantageous for the Parish that the Overseers shall so execute the Act, as to increase the Stock of industrious and thriv-

venient stock of flax, hemp, wool, thread, iron, and other necessary ware and stuff, to set the poor on work: and also competent sums of money, for and towards the necessary relief of the lame, impotent, old, blind, and such other among them, being poor and not able to work, and also for the putting out of such children to be apprentices, to be gathered out of the same parish, according to the ability of the same parish, and to do and to execute all other things, as well for the disposing of the said stock as otherwise concerning the premises, as to them shall seem convenient.

“ Which said Churchwardens and Overseers so to be nominated, or such of them as shall not be lett by sickness, or other just excuse to be allowed by two such justices of peace or more as is aforesaid, shall meet together at the least once every mouth in the church of the said parish, upon the Sunday in the afternoon after divine service, there to consider of some good course to be taken, and of some meet order to be set down in the premises; and shall within four days after the end of their year, and after other Overseers nominated as aforesaid, make and yield up to such two justices of peace as is aforesaid, a true and perfect account of all sums of money by them received, or rated and sessed and not received, and also of such stock as shall be in their hands, or in the hands of any of the poor to work, and of all other things concerning their said office; and such sum or sums of money as shall be in their hands, shall pay and deliver over to the said Churchwardens and Overseers newly nominated and appointed as aforesaid; upon pain that every one of them absenting themselves without lawful cause as aforesaid, from such monthly meeting for the purpose aforesaid, or being negligent in their office, or in the execution of the orders aforesaid, being made by and with the assent of the said justices of peace, or any two of them before mentioned, to forfeit for every such default of absence or negligence twenty shillings.”

ing Poor, and to diminish the Number of PAUPERS ; —and so to perform their Duty, as to raise up, or relieve, the Poor, and to enable them to support themselves and their Families, without Cost to the Parish. This must be effected by a wise Encouragement of Industry, Prudence, and Economy ; and by a discrete Attention to every Circumstance which may improve their Means, their Powers, and their Habits of Life. Thus, and thus only, shall the Overseers execute the Act most advantageously for the Parish.—IN THE FOURTH PLACE, I hold that there is a Principle of Morality which pervades every Part of this Act ; a Code of jurisprudential Ethics, which makes it the Interest of every other Individual in a Parish to be useful to the Poor: The Act declareth to the Possessors of Property, “ your “ Interest shall from henceforth be united with your “ Duty; and the Exercise of judicious and useful “ Charity shall operate to increase the Value of your “ Possessions.” It telleth them that, to educate the Young to encourage the Industrious, to restore Health to the Sick, and to render all their Parishioners capable of being useful to themselves and to the Community ;—these are Duties enjoined by Divine Authority ;—but we will make them the Conditions annexed to the Improvement and Enjoyment of worldly Property :—“ If your Cottagers’ Children are brought “ up in early Habits of Piety and Industry, they will “ to you be a Benefit, and not a Burthen ; and they “ will be useful in their own Parish, or acquire a “ Settlement in another, at a tender Age. If you “ encourage Industry among your Parishioners, you

" and your Parish shall receive the Benefit of it. If
" you are attentive to the Health of the Poor, your
" Stock of Labour shall be augmented, and the Ex-
" pense of medical Attendance shall be diminished.
" If you give Instruction and suitable Occupation to
" the Blind, the Lame, the Helpless, and the Ignor-
" ant, you will enable them in Part, if not entirely,
" to maintain themselves, instead of being supported
" at your Cost. But—if you neglect all these Du-
" ties—if you break these Conditions annexed to the
" Improvement and Enjoyment of your Property, your
" Rental shall be reduced, your Burthen increased,
" and those Possessions, which promised you Rest
" and Enjoyment, shall be the Source of Vexation and
" Disappointment;—when you find that, through
" your own Default, the greater Part of your worldly
Estate must be applied by Law, as a Parish Rate,
to give a wretched Existence to Vice and Idleness."

ye first of Apr 1804
G Smiege
Whitstable

No. XVI.

REGULATIONS for preserving the Health and Morals of Apprentices and others, in Cotton or Woollen Mills or Factories, where three or more Apprentices, or twenty or more other Persons are employed; being established by an Act of the 42d of George the Third, to take place on the 2d Day of December 1802.

1. ALL and every the rooms and apartments in or belonging to any such mill or factory shall, twice at least in every year, be well and sufficiently washed with quick lime and water over every part of the walls and cieling thereof; and due care and attention shall be paid by the master or mistress of such mills or factories, to provide a sufficient number of windows and openings in such rooms or apartments, to insure a proper supply of fresh air in and through the same.—2. EVERY such master or mistress shall constantly supply every apprentice, during the term of his or her apprenticeship, with two whole and complete suits of cloathing, with suitable linen, stockings, hats, and shoes; one new complete suit being delivered to such apprentice once at least in every year.—3. No apprentice that now is or hereafter shall be bound to work, any such master or mistress, shall be employed or compelled to work for more than twelve hours in

Mills, &c.
to be kept
clean and
airy.

Clothing of
apprentices.

any one day (reckoning from six of the clock in the morning to nine of the clock at night) exclusive of the time that may be occupied by such apprentice in eating the necessary meals: Provided always, that from and after the first day of June 1803, no apprentice shall be employed or compelled to work upon any occasion whatever, between the hours of nine of the clock at night and six of the clock in Exception. the morning.—4. IN any mill or factory, wherein not less than 1000 nor more than 1500 spindles are constantly used in the carrying on of the manufacture, it shall and may be lawful for the owner or owners of such mill to employ his apprentices in the night until the 25th day of December 1803, and in any mill or factory wherein more than 1500 spindles shall be employed, it shall and may be lawful for the owner of such mill to employ his apprentices in the night until the 25th Day of June 1804.—5. EVERY such apprentice

Instruction in reading, &c. shall be instructed, in some part of every working day, for the first four years at least of his or her apprenticeship, which shall next ensue from and after the 2d day of December 1802, if he or she is an apprentice on the said 2d day of December 1802, and for the first four years at least of his or her apprenticeship, if his or her apprenticeship commences at any time after the said 2d day of December 1802, in the usual hours of work, in reading, writing, and arithmetic, or either of them, according to the age and abilities of such apprentice, by some discreet and proper person (to be

provided and paid by the master or mistress of such apprentice) in some room or place in such mill or factory, to be set apart for that purpose; and the time, hereby directed to be allotted for such instruction as aforesaid, shall be deemed and taken on all occasions as part of the respective periods limited by this act, during which any such apprentice shall be employed or compelled to work.—

6. THE room, or apartment, in which any male apprentice shall sleep, shall be rooms entirely separate and distinct from the room or apartment in which any female apprentice shall sleep; and not more than two apprentices shall, in any case, sleep in the same bed.—7. EVERY apprentice, or (in case the apprentices shall attend in classes) every such class, shall for the space of one hour at least every Sunday, be instructed and examined in the principles of the Christian religion, by some proper person to be provided and paid by the master or mistress of such apprentice; and in England and Wales, in case the parents of such apprentice shall be members of the church of England, then such apprentice shall be taken, once at least in every year during the term of his or her apprenticeship, to be examined by the rector, vicar, or curate of the parish in which such mill or factory shall be situate; and shall also, after such apprentice shall have attained the age of fourteen years, and before attaining the age of eighteen years, be duly instructed and prepared for confirmation, and be brought or sent to the bishop of the diocese to be

confirmed, in case any confirmation shall, during such period, take place in or for the said parish; and in Scotland, where the parents of such apprentice shall be members of the established church, such apprentice shall be taken, once at least in every year, during the term of his or her apprenticeship, to be examined by the minister of the parish; and shall, after such apprentice shall have attained the age of fourteen years, and before attaining the age of eighteen years, be carried to the parish church to receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, as the same is administered in churches in Scotland; and such master or mistress shall send all his or her apprentices under the care of some proper person, once in a month at least, to attend during divine service in the church of the parish or place in which the mill or factory shall be situated, or in some other convenient church or chapel where service shall be performed according to the rites of the church of England, or according to the established religion in Scotland, as the case may be, or in some licensed place of divine worship. And in case the apprentices of any such master or mistress cannot conveniently attend such church or chapel every Sunday, the master or mistress, either by themselves or some proper person, shall cause divine service to be performed in some convenient room or place in or adjoining to the mill or factory, once at least every Sunday that such apprentices shall not be able to attend divine Service at such church or chapel; and such master or mistress is hereby strictly enjoined and required to take due

care, that all his or her apprentices regularly attend divine service, according to the directions of this act.—8. THE Justices of the peace ^{Visitors of} for every county, stewartry, riding, mills, &c. division, or place, in which any such mill or factory shall be situated, shall, at the Midsummer Sessions of the Peace to be holden immediately after the passing of this act for such county, stewartry, riding, division, or place, and afterwards yearly at their annual Midsummer Sessions of the Peace, appoint two persons, not interested in, or in any way connected with, any such mills or factories, to be visitors of such mills or factories in such county, stewartry, riding, division, or place; one of whom shall be a justice of peace for such county, stewartry, riding, division, or place, and the other shall be a clergyman of the established church of England or Scotland, as the case may be; and in case it shall be found inconvenient to appoint one such justice and one such clergyman as aforesaid, it shall be lawful to and for such justices, and they are hereby required to appoint two such justices or two such clergymen; and the said visitors, or either of them, shall have full power and authority, from time to time throughout the year, to enter into and inspect any such mill or factory, at any time of the day, or during the hours of employment, as they shall think fit; and such visitors shall report from time to time in writing, to the Quarter Sessions of the Peace, the state and condition of such mills and factories, and of the apprentices therein, and whether the same are or are not conducted and

regulated according to the directions of this act, and the laws of the realm ; and such report shall be entered by the clerk of the peace among the records of the session, in a book kept for that purpose : Provided always, that in case there shall be six or more such mills or factories within any one such county, riding, division, or place, then it shall be lawful for such justices to divide such county, riding, division, or place, into two or more districts or parts, and to appoint two such visitors as aforesaid for each of such districts or parts.—9. IN Infectious case the said visitors, or either of disorder. them, shall find that any infectious disorder appears to prevail in any mill or factory as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for them or either of them to require the master or mistress of any such mill, or factory, to call in forthwith some physician, or other competent medical person, for the purposse of ascertaining the nature and probable effects of such disorder ; and for applying such remedies, and recommending such regulations, as the said physician, or other competent medical person, shall think most proper for preventing the spreading of the infection, and for restoring the health of the sick , and such physician, or other competent medical person, shall report to such visitors, or either of them, as often as they shall be required so to do, their opinion in writing of the nature; progress, and present state, of the disorder, together with its probable effects ; and any expenses incurred, in consequence of the provisions aforesaid, for medical assistance, shall be discharged by the

master or mistress of such mill or factory.—10. If any person or persons shall oppose or molest any of the said visitors, in the execution of the powers intrusted to them by this act, every such person or persons shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding ten pounds, nor less than five pounds.—

11. THE master or mistress of every such mill, or factory, shall cause printed or written copies of this act to be hung up and affixed, in two or more conspicuous places in such mill or factory; and shall cause the same to be constantly kept and renewed, so that they may at all times be legible and accessible to all persons employed therein.—12. EVERY master or mistress of any such mill or factory, who shall wilfully act contrary to, or offend against, any of the provisions of this act, shall for such offence (except where otherwise directed) forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding five pounds, nor less than forty shillings, at the discretion of the justices before whom such offender shall be convicted as after mentioned; one half whereof shall be paid to the informer, and the other half to the overseers of the poor in England and Ireland, and to the minister and elders in Scotland, of the parish or place where such offence shall be committed; to be by them applied in aid of the poor rate, in England and Ireland, and for the benefit of the poor in Scotland, of such parish or place: Provided always, that all informations for such offences shall be laid within one calendar month after the offence

Copies of act
to be hung
up in mills.

committed, and not afterwards.—13. EVERY Mills to be entered with the clerk of the peace.

such master or mistress shall, at the Epiphany sessions in every year, make, or cause to be made, an entry in a book to be kept for that purpose by the clerk of the peace of the county, riding, or division in which any mill or factory shall be situate, of every such mill or factory occupied by him or her wherein three or more apprentices, or twenty or more other persons, shall be employed; and the said clerk of the peace shall receive, for every such entry, the sum of two shillings and no more.—

Offences against this act, how tried, &c.

14. ALL offences for which any penalty is imposed under this act, shall and may be heard before any two or more justices of the peace, acting in or

for the place where the offence shall be committed; and all penalties and forfeitures by this act imposed, and all costs and charges attending the conviction of any such offender or offenders, shall and may be levied by distress and sale of the offenders goods and chattels, by warrant under the hand and seal of any two or more justices of the peace acting for the county, stewartry, riding, division, or place where such offence shall be committed, rendering the overplus, (if any) to the party or parties offending; and which warrant such justices are hereby empowered and required to grant, upon conviction of the offender, either by confession, or upon oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses (which oath such justices are hereby empowered to administer); and in case such distress cannot be

found, and such penalties, forfeitures, and costs, shall not be forthwith paid, it shall and may be lawful for such justices, and they are hereby empowered and required, by warrant under their hands and seals, to commit such offender or offenders to the common gaol or house of correction of the county, stewartry, riding, division, or place where the offence shall be committed, for any time not exceeding two calendar months, unless the said penalty, forfeiture, and costs, shall respectively be sooner paid and satisfied: Provided always, that no warrant of distress shall be issued for levying any such penalty, forfeiture, or costs, until six days after the offender shall have been convicted, and an order made upon him or her for payment thereof; and no such conviction shall be removable by *cetiorari* or bill of advocation into any court whatsoever.

THIS ACT shall be deemed and taken to be a PUBLICK ACT, and shall be judicially Publick act taken notice of as such by all judges, justices, and others, without specially pleading the same.

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